

YEAR

G2 pages 12-13

[illegible]

breathing space, he has taken up a request from Mr Blair to rethink European policy. His new ideas will act as a counterweight to those fearful of increased European integration and federalism, especially when Britain, as is now almost certain, joins the single currency.

Mr Cook, who outlined the second phase of his plan in an interview with the *Financial Times* to be published tomorrow, said: "The European Parliament does a very useful job but the missing link is joining the national parliaments with the work of Europe."

"At the moment, there is not an adequate basis for representation from the national parliaments to come together to discuss the needs and interests of the people," he said.

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In G2 today: Joanna Coles sends her last missive from the weird world of the Hamptons

+ Why New York seems suddenly in a state of collapse (bricks keep falling on my head)

Easy living for fraud investigators

One prosecution after two years

David Hencke
Westminster Correspondent

A £3 MILLION crackdown by the Government on organised benefit fraud has produced just one successful prosecution in two years.

An unpublished report on

the first squad to tackle criminal gangs ripping off housing and council tax benefit reveals that it did not become fully operational until last July — 16 months after it was set up.

Since then it has had only one successful prosecution and stopped benefit to individuals in two of the 98 cases referred to it.

The investigators were found to have been using new Rovers, Audis and Renault Leganas, leased to the team to spy on suspect claimants, for private motoring.

Three of the agents have resigned, and one has been suspended for "conflict of interests" in his job.

Details of the idleness of the London Organised Fraud Investigation Team have come to light after an anonymous letter was sent to Alan Williams, Labour MP for Swansea West, claiming the undercover agents were "playing cards all day and watching around in brand-new BMWs at the taxpayer's expense".

It also emerged that £110,000 had been spent on fitting out offices for the undercover operation in a government building in Stammers, Middlesbrough.

As a result, the Audit Commission sent in accountants to investigate the operation, and they confirmed most of the allegations. The report, which was not due to be published, was released to the Guardian after a formal request under the open government code.

The squad was set up in April 1996 after criticism by the former social services minister, Frank Field, when he chaired the Commons

social security committee, of the last government's failure to tackle housing benefit fraud — thought to total billions of pounds a year.

The criticism was reinforced when the Commons public accounts committee said that 40 per cent of all housing benefit fraud was in London and estimated that the appointment of every extra fraud investigator would save taxpayers £333,000 a year.

Auditors examining the fraud team's books found that out of 98 cases referred to the squad, 36 had been rejected by the team as unsuitable for investigation and five were

referred to other agencies. Out of the 12 investigations completed in two years, only in one case had a prosecution taken place, and in two cases benefit had been stopped. Seven of the cases resulted in no further action or reference back to the local authority concerned to investigate.

The auditors found that the team kept no records of the number of people involved in prosecutions, search warrants executed, records seized, or where benefit was stopped without going ahead with a prosecution.

The report reveals that the team of 20 was spending £138,000 on brand new leased

cars to go on surveillance of suspects. The present fleet consists of an Audi A8, two Rover 400s, a Rover 200, a Renault Laguna, a VW Golf, a Vauxhall Astra and two Bugatti motorbikes.

They found that one car was used almost exclusively by the team manager, who did no surveillance work, and all the others were regularly used for private motoring.

Mr Williams said yesterday: "This is an extremely disappointing outcome for such an important operation, which we were told should save millions of pounds for the taxpayer. These people should be summoned before

Parliament to explain themselves."

A spokesman for the Association of London Government, which managed the operation for the Department of Social Security, yesterday defended the team.

"We think this a very superficial audit about the work of the team based originally on a grievance from someone. There is a much more authoritative report due out next month from the Best Fraud Inspectorate on the working of this team."

He said that since the report, staff had been banned from using the leased cars for private motoring.



A minute's silence is observed yesterday by rescuers from Kenya, Israel, the US and France, ending work at the US embassy bombing scene in Nairobi.

PHOTOGRAPH: THOMAS COEX

'Israelis led US to ignore bomb tip-off'

Julian Borger in Jerusalem
and Lucy Hannan in Nairobi

ISRAELI intelligence advised the United States to discount a warning about a possible attack on the US embassy in Nairobi describing the informant as unreliable, it was claimed yesterday.

The informant's tip-off was

allegedly delivered several days before last Friday's embassy bomb blasts killed at least 247 people in Kenya and Tanzania, by a man who approached American officials to inform them that the Nairobi mission was a target.

Asked to assess the informant, Israeli security officials told their US counterparts that based on past experience his

reliability was questionable, a report in yesterday's Ha'aretz newspaper said, quoting an unnamed Israeli security official. The Israeli government denied the Ha'aretz report.

Israel is closely involved in investigating the bombings. Journalists at the scene of the Nairobi blast saw Israeli security men arrive within hours, and a 200-strong Israeli army team played a leading role in the rescue of victims trapped in the rubble — an operation that was wound down yesterday as FBI investigators took over the site as a "crime scene".

Asked to comment on the newspaper report, an Israeli official with close ties to Israeli intelligence accepted that it "may be true" but described it as "unfair". "The nature of these stories is that

they don't put things into perspective, in terms of all the times something like this has been successfully averted. There is a lot of information being traded. Whenever there is an attack and you look back, you will always find someone somewhere predicted it," the official said.

Based on Israeli reports from Nairobi, Ely Carmon, a research scholar at the International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism in Herzliya, said there was evidence that the explosives used in Friday's attacks were either Semtex or RDX.

Mr Carmon said the three previously known groups who have so far claimed responsibility for the attacks — the Army for the Liberation of Islamic Holy Sites, the al-Aqsa

Group, and the Mecca Group — used language suggesting they were fronts for the Islamic Front for the Holy War against Jews and Crusaders.

This organisation was set up in Afghanistan in February by Osama Bin Laden, an exiled Saudi who funds extremist groups, and the leader of Egypt's hardline Islamic Jihad group, Ayman al-Dhawahiri. These two are believed to be the focus of the US investigation.

"Based on past experience and the information coming out, I think it's likely these attacks were the work of an international team, perhaps with some Afghans, some Egyptians, maybe some Palestinians," Mr Carmon said.

Mr Bin Laden is the outcast son of a rich Saudi construc-

tion family. In 1979, he went to fight the Soviet occupation in Afghanistan, where he has since built up a multinational army of Islamic zealots and has issued threats against US interests.

In both Kenya and Tanzania, police have made arrests in connection with the explosions. But yesterday the Saudi Arabian embassy in Dar-es-Salaam said a Sudanese employee among those detained was at work at the time of the blast.

Arrests in Nairobi, revealed by President Daniel arap Moi yesterday, included at least four Kenyan Muslims picked up not long after the explosion. Local Muslim leaders fear a backlash.

Missions on alert, page 6

Inflation and jobs figures cheer ministers

Mark Atkinson
and Ewen MacAskill

THE Government went on the offensive yesterday after a hat-trick of good news on the economy helped to dispel some of the gloom induced by a series of high-profile job losses in industry which were blamed on the strong pound.

Following redundancies in recent weeks at top companies, including Siemens, Rover and BOC, the industrial gases group, official figures showed a sharp drop in economy-wide unemployment in July and an easing in the rate of earnings growth, one of the key barometers of inflation.

At the same time, the Bank of England's powerful monetary policy committee, which controls interest rates, predicted the Government was likely to hit its 2.5 per cent inflation target.

The employment minister, Andrew Smith, seized on the pay and jobs figures, saying they were a big setback for the "doom and gloom merchants".

Stephen Byers, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said: "Today's news shows that we are on course to achieve economic stability."

But the dangers of celebrating prematurely were immediately highlighted by fresh news of job losses at the Korean-owned Hella, maker of forklift trucks and excavators in Merthyr Tydfil, which were blamed on the deepening Asian economic crisis.

The MPC also admitted for the first time that, although inflation appeared to be under control, there was a one in eight chance of recession.

"The balance of risks to output is on the downside," said the MPC, citing continuing concerns about the world economy.

The TUC general secretary, John Monks, warned: "As job losses begin to pile up in manufacturing, unemployment will start to rise by the end of this year."

According to the Office for National Statistics, the claimant count fell by 26,000 last month to stand at 1,335,100, while the Government-preferred International Labour Office method of measuring unemployment, which includes people not eligible for benefit, fell by 62,000 in the three months to June to a record low of 1,902,000.

June's previously reported

rise in the claimant count was revised to a fall of 5,800.

Presenting the MPC's quarterly Inflation Report, which does not take yesterday's data into account, Mervyn King, one of the Bank of England's two deputy directors, said that the fall in earnings growth in May to 5 per cent from 5.4 per cent in April represented a "step in the right direction".

But he warned that earnings growth still appeared to be too high for comfort.

Refusing to rule out further rate rises in the months ahead, he said: "Today's figures will require careful analysis... the tightness of the labour market, discussed in the Inflation Report and evidenced in today's figures, is still having an influence."

The report says the MPC believes unemployment "has reached a level likely to prove incompatible with price stability", implying it believes an increase in the jobless total is needed to keep the lid on the rate of price rises.

Bank committee admits there is one in eight risk of recession

David Walton, senior economist at Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank, said that the report meant that industry's hopes for cuts in interest rates were now unlikely to materialise until next year.

The Shadow Chancellor, Francis Maude, blamed the interest rate outlook on the inflationary implications of the Government's new spending plans and the minimum wage.

He said: "The Bank paints a clear picture of a worsening economic outlook for Britain. The simple fact is that everything the Government has done squanders the golden economic legacy that they inherited from us."

Mr Maude forecast that "interest rates will be higher for longer than they need have been. The economic downturn will be longer and deeper than it need have been."

The Liberal Democrat employment spokesman, Paul Keetch, described the economy as "Jekyll and Hyde," with the manufacturing sector being badly hit by interest rates and a high pound but the service sector doing well, creating new jobs.

Callow keeps able company in reduced Shakespeare

Review

Michael Billington

Chimes at Midnight
Chichester Festival Theatre

ORSON Welles's film of this name is a wintry masterpiece with some of the greatest battle scenes committed to celluloid. But his stage version, originally seen in Dublin in 1936, is simply a conflation of the two

parts of Shakespeare's Henry IV. And, watching it at Chichester, one yearns to see the complete cycle rather than this reductive Wellesian cut-up.

Even with the aid of a chorus, much goes missing in part one — the complex plots against Henry IV are so compressed as to resemble the famous Beyond the Fringe Shakespearean parody, with lines such as "Get thee to Hereford, saucy Worcester".

Throughout, one also misses the tonal contrasts that are part of this symphonic

masterpiece: you need, but don't get, the Celtic braggadocio of Owen Glendower to offset the Northumbrian bluntness of Hotspur just as Prince John of Lancaster's Machiavellian treachery later allows you to see his brother Hal's political realism in a softer light.

Welles, I suspect, conceived this adaptation initially as a vehicle for his own talents — astonishingly, he was 23 when he first planned to play Falstaff — and later as a reflection of his own elegiac feelings about the death of Merrie Eng-

land. And if there is a point now in doing the Welles version rather than the original plays, it is as a showcase for an individual actor: in that sense Patrick Garland's Chichester revival is justified by the presence of Simon Callow, Welles's expert biographer, as Falstaff.

Callow brings to the part aristocratic dignity, a self-delighting wit and a palpable affection for the young Prince Hal: indeed we first see them together with Hal kneeling at his surrogate father's feet. Callow also brings out the cunning and even cruel savagery

of Falstaff in his dealings with Mistress Quickly and Justice Shallow.

All I miss is the heart-wrenching pathos that Robert Stephens found in the role when the latter cried "If I had a thousand sons" you suddenly sensed the true tragedy of Falstaff's barren existence.

The production is dignified by the presence of Keith Bastar, Welles's original Hal, as a sonorous, suffering and guilt-ridden king. Both Tam Williams as Hal and Tristan Gemmill as Hotspur also show considerable promise and

Sarah Badal makes an impressively lively Mistress Quickly.

One wishes, however, that a director as skilful and seasoned as Patrick Garland had been let loose on the full version. These plays are Shakespeare's twin masterpieces, providing an epic vision of England. What you get at Chichester is sawn-off scenes from Shakespeare's Histories, a partial vision of a great panoramic work whose genius lies in its totality.

This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

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Controlling pornography

Obscenity law is an ass, says censor

Luke Harding

THE chief film censor, James Ferman, last night launched a sustained attack on Britain's confused obscenity laws, warning that the problem of pornography "will not go away".

In his last annual report Mr Ferman, the outgoing director of the British Board of Film Classification, called for the legalisation of explicit pornography. No film should be "treated with taboo", he added.

Mr Ferman, aged 68, denied his parting shot was directed at the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, who gave the censor a dressing down last November when he relaxed rules governing pornographic videos. Ministers accused him of failing to consult and described the move as "unacceptable".

The board was forced to return to its previous policy of refusing "R18" certificates to some videos with graphic sex scenes. "Pornography will once again be swept under the carpet where, in the name of the law, it will be mixed up with violence and degradation," Mr Ferman wrote yesterday. "The law may be an ass, but it is the board's job to uphold it, even in the face of astonished disbelief from the rest of the world."

Mr Ferman, who leaves in December after 23 years as a board director, said that restrictions on "conventional" pornography had created a flourishing black market in which pornography and obscenity were mixed. "The more you try to ban it, the more it grows," he said.

Pro-censorship groups yesterday condemned Mr Ferman's claim that the only way

Censor's view of being obliged to refuse certificates to videos with graphic sex: 'Pornography will once again be swept under the carpet where, in the name of the law, it will be mixed up with violence and degradation'

to regulate pornography was to legalise it. John Beyer, of the National Viewers and Listeners Association founded by Mary Whitehouse, called for "an effective law" to deal

with pornography and uncensored sex shops. The Association of Chief Police Officers said it welcomed a review of legislation, but cautioned against "too liberal" a line. "The legal position is unclear and makes effective enforcement difficult," its spokesman admitted.

In his report, Mr Ferman conceded there had been heated debate last year about his role after certificates were granted to the films, *Lolita*, *Crash*, and *Kissed*, the latter depicting necrophilia. "Despite public concern about their potential to corrupt viewers, all were classified '18', suitable for adult viewing, and public complaint evaporated once they had been released," he noted.

The board said it was pleased with its decision to give one film, *The Lost World - Jurassic Park*, a PG certificate which warned uniquely

that it might be "unsuitable for sensitive children or those under eight". This followed experimental screenings with a group of six to 11-year-olds; only one in 10 described *The Lost World* as "too frightening for me", and most raised no objection to "scary scenes".

Overall, the censor appears to have less to do than in previous years. In 1974, 40 per cent of films on general release needed to be cut; last year it was 4 per cent. "This demonstrates a remarkable shift from being a board of 'censorship' to one of 'classification'," the report says.

Mr Ferman, who has effectively been replaced by the board's new president, Andrew Whittam Smith, former editor of the Independent, announced his resignation in March in the week a row blew up over his decision to grant *Lolita* an 18 certificate. The report says that the board

Censor on why he gave certificate to film about paedophilia: 'Lolita was a challenging and compassionate treatment of an established literary classic, which adult cinema goers had a right to judge for themselves'

consulted two child psychiatrists and a QC before deciding. The use of a 19-year-old in sex scenes to replace the film's 14-year-old actress led it to conclude the subject of

paedophilia had been treated "responsibly". "Lolita was a challenging and compassionate treatment of an established literary classic, which adult cinema goers had a right to judge for themselves," the board says. The report bitterly criticises the Daily Mail, without naming it, for a campaign of harassment and intrusion against the board's examiners during the *Lolita* furore.

The latest James Bond film, *Tomorrow Never Dies*, was deemed "slightly too violent" for its intended audience. But the film scraped through as a 15 after the board suggested cuts at the editing stage. This was partly due to what was described as Pierce Brosnan's "light touch" which meant "that the British public, for all their reported concern about screen violence, lapped it up".

Looking back on his career,

Mr Ferman yesterday told the Guardian he was pleased to have "got rid of rape as entertainment" from British cinema, and to have "successfully kept the lid on screen violence". Asked for his favourite film, he named *Singing in the Rain*, adding: "I'm 68. I grew up when movie stars were people like Fred Astaire." He said Ingmar Bergman was the greatest director.

"We have respected film as an art form, perhaps the greatest art form of the 20th century, with a unique capacity for exploring the world and the human soul," he writes in his outgoing message.

"No regulator has the right to muzzle such a medium... and therefore no subject matter should any longer be taboo."

Women, G2, page 4

Producers/
Fewer restrictions
would mean a
loss of frisson,
say video makers

Rory Carroll

JAMES Ferman's recommendation to relax pornography laws could unwittingly destroy the industry's competitive edge: repression.

A mini-boom in exports is attributed to foreign consumers' belief that British hard core is made in defiance of the authorities, making it a forbidden fruit. Loosen the law, lose the frisson, say some film-makers.

Audiences are swamped with explicit continental and American films made under a perceived anything-goes regime, granting Britain a unique opportunity to exploit its censorship, they said.

Vinny Curran, who has made more than 100 films,

said his career could be doomed unless morality campaigners succeeded in keeping regulations tight. "Europeans wouldn't be as interested if it was legal. It wouldn't be traditional British porn anymore. The spark would be gone."

Mr Curran, aged 35, believes the awards for his films, especially his parody of Mr Bean and the Sex in Public Places series, owe much to Britain's Big Brother image. Film juries wanted to reward his intrepidity.

He said he was regarded as a hero - and sold more videos - by taking on police. He was given an 18-month conditional discharge last December for outraging public decency while filming a sex scene on the bonnet of a Vauxhall

car at Heathrow airport, London.

Relaxing the laws would damage the balance of repression, which was just about right, he said.

Mr Curran said consumers' expectations, plus his professional pride, obliged him to take increasing risks to front the law.

Most of his filming takes place in the streets of Northampton, which he uses as a giant set.

He claimed to have filmed sex scenes against the wall of a police station, in the public gallery of Northampton crown court, and, using tourists as cover, outside No 10 Downing Street and Buckingham Palace. Experienced actors could complete a scene within seconds, he said.

Mr Curran is concerned that the foreign actors and film crews that fly into Luton to film at British locations might be deterred if Britain lost its repressed cachet. Hotels and bed and breakfasts, which often unknowingly double as studios, would be hit.

Mr Ferman's recommended "R18" category would send out the wrong signals by making Britain the safest of American.

The rights to Mr Curran's videos, which usually last 90 minutes, fetch up to £10,000. His biggest markets are Germany, the US, Belgium, the Netherlands and France.

According to three dealers the figures for this year's exports were very good, but hard statistics were unavailable.

Mr Curran said that if a relaxed law removed his films' frisson, he might compensate by making them more extreme, such as a sequel to his February 1995 collaboration with his wife, Marina.

He directed her world record attempt at having sex with the most men in one day, servicing 363. The film made the couple £25,000.

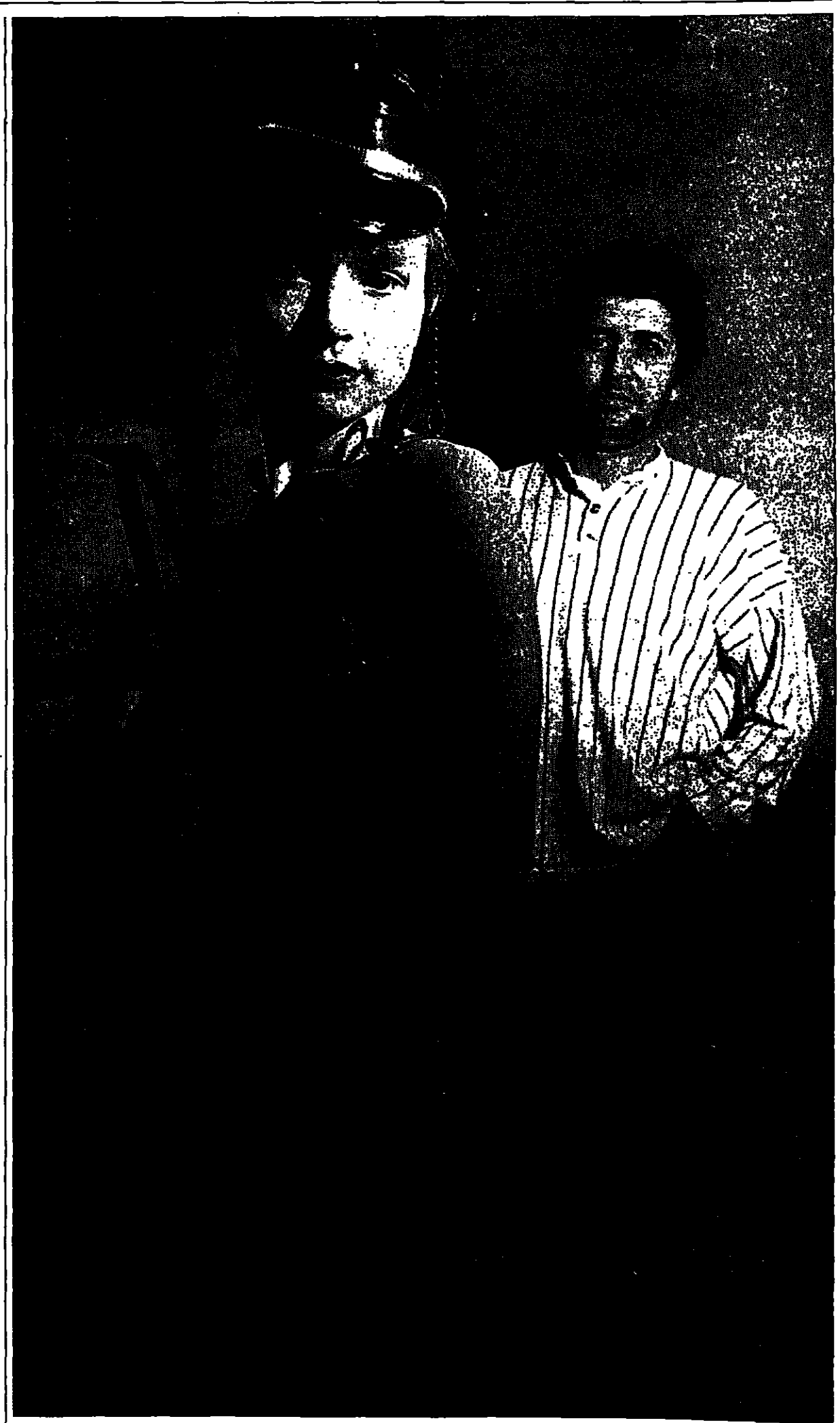
But Mr Curran, a leaped Catholic from an Irish family, conceded a relaxation could benefit him if it meant he was no longer troubled by the courts, as he was over the Heathrow film.

"That court case made me worse of a coke-head than I already was through the stress of it."

Steve Perry, alias actor Ben Dover, said eastern European audiences watched his videos on the assumption that the actors' lust was genuine and defied the state.

"When you're watching, you really want to think the performers are getting off on what they're doing."

Mr Perry, 42, who specialises in filming sex with non-actresses, said he would be saddened if British porn lost its reputation for cutting edge experiment and daring.



Vinny Curran and his wife Marina. He says his career could be doomed if law did not stay tight

PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

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Law/ How Britain compares
with other countries in dealing
with the problem of obscenity

BRITAIN'S obscenity laws are among the strictest in Europe. Here is a summary of the legal position, and how it compares with others:

BRITAIN

□ If a prosecution is brought under the Obscene Publications Act a jury must decide whether the material is likely to 'deprave and corrupt'.

□ In cases of seizures by police or Customs and Excise a magistrate is usually called on to see if the material meets the test.

□ The British Board of Film Classification can refuse a video certificate on the grounds of sexual content.

The BBFC has attempted to follow the standards applied by police and Customs in making its judgments.

□ Under the Cinemas Act 1985 local authorities must license any cinema in their area and approve the films they show.

□ The Broadcasting Act 1980 contains provisions on the importance of taste and decency on television and radio.

HOLLAND

□ Has a reputation as the most liberal of European countries. Hard core pornography is readily available.

□ The open display of pornographic material has never

been legal. Restrictions are tacitly ignored by both vendors and police.

ITALY

□ A generally liberal line is taken on pornography.

□ Obscenity laws are vague. Material featuring juveniles is outlawed, but otherwise it is up to a local judge to decide what can go on sale.

□ This leads to local variations, with pornography virtually unobtainable in Brescia, for example, but freely available in Milan.

UNITED STATES

□ Pornography is generally protected by the First Amendment, which enshrines the right to freedom of speech.

□ Attitudes vary widely, with "blue" cable television channels available in New York, but the popular drama series *NYPD Blue* was banned at

first in some states as pornographic.

JAPAN

□ Despite the fact that ordinary magazines often have pictures of naked women, porn regulations are strict.

□ The government employs women to go through imported copies of top-shelf magazines looking out public hair.

IRELAND

□ The strictest pornography legislation in Europe.

□ Films are governed by the Censorship of Films Act 1923.

□ Films must be approved by the Official Censor, who may refuse a certificate if he believes it to be "unfit by reason of being indecent, obscene or blasphemous".

□ The Censor can ban a video which would tend to "deprave or corrupt persons who might view it".

كلنا من الأصل

Hospital suspends consultant after patient's death

Gerard Seenan

A SURGEON was suspended yesterday after hospital colleagues raised serious doubts over his clinical competence.

The surgeon's handling of a recent emergency surgical case where a patient died has been referred to the Procurator Fiscal. Criminal charges may follow.

The suspension of Peeyush Sharma, aged 41, from his duties as a consultant general surgeon at Stracathro hospital, Brechin, comes a month after another surgeon, Douglas Irving, was suspended from the same hospital, again over doubts about his clinical practice.

It is unusual for a Procurator Fiscal to be asked to review a surgeon's handling of a case. The Scottish Health Minister, Sam Galbraith, said: "I am extremely concerned to hear of the suspension of a second consultant surgeon at Stracathro hospital. I want the Angus Trust and Tayside health board to conclude their investigations as quickly as possible."

All emergency surgical admissions — around 2,000 a year to the hospital have been suspended. GPs and ambulance services have been

told to refer all such cases to Dundee teaching hospitals. A proportion of Stracathro's non-emergency work will also be referred elsewhere.

An Angus NHS Trust spokesman said it was impossible to say when the suspension would be lifted.

Mr Sharma also had private practice at Sarnbrae hospital, Dundee. The hospital last night withdrew his admitting rights and began an internal investigation.

The surgeon has been suspended from Stracathro hospital pending an external audit of 400 of his cases. He has been employed by the trust since November.

A 24-hour helpline has been set up to offer advice and support to all of Mr Sharma's present and former patients.

Senior colleagues of Mr Sharma are understood to have raised their concerns about his clinical competence with trust management a few days ago. "A preliminary investigation of his work was

undertaken by the trust and Tayside health board has confirmed that a fuller inquiry is indicated and a wide-ranging internal audit of his general and emergency surgical workload is now under way," said a trust spokesman.

The other surgeon, Douglas Irving, was suspended pending an investigation after two colleagues found he had not been following guidelines for the treatment of breast cancer patients. His treatment of colorectal cases was also questioned.

Since his appointment, Mr Sharma has treated patients from both the Grampian and Tayside regions of Scotland. Much of his work is believed to have involved minor surgery such as varicose veins and appendix operations.

The Angus MP, Andrew Welsh, called on the Scottish Office to mount an inquiry into events involving the trust. "There is obviously a serious situation here. We must find out what happened, learn the lessons and institute appropriate measures. I believe the book stops with the Scottish minister and this independent inquiry that will look at all top management matters in the health trust can only come from the Scottish Office," he said.

The 24-hour helpline number is 0800 224 488.

'There is a serious situation here. We must find out what happened'

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Robot cameras pick out 'human remains' on Gaul

Martin Wainwright

RAINY pictures that appear to show human remains in the 24-year-old wreck of the Gaul are to be enhanced by marine accident specialists after they were transmitted to a government survey ship last night from robot cameras 850ft deep in Arctic waters.

Relatives of the trawler's 36 crew, watching on board the Mansal 18 survey vessel, said that what looked like a skull and other remains were filmed as the cameras investigated eight cabins and the Gaul's bridge on the bed of the Barents Sea.

Further steps to unravel the mystery of the ship were announced by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister. He is to ask the Russian authorities to exhume a number of bodies washed ashore on the coast shortly after the loss of the Gaul in February 1974.

Government investigators warned against premature hopes of an end to the Gaul mystery, which has triggered theories ranging from freak wave damage to scuttling by a Soviet boarding party as a deterrent against spying by the British fishing fleet. The Ma-

rine Accidents Investigation Branch said the internal survey of the 1,060-tonne wreck using remotely operated submersibles had finished, but much analysis of the data remained to be done.

"The team wishes to have the pictures enhanced and to show them to pathologists in the UK before any firm judgment can be made about what they reveal," said a spokesman for the Department of Transport. Similar caution surrounds potential explanations for the British trawler's disappearance. "The Gaul was the pride of the British trawler fleet when it vanished in exceptionally severe weather, sinking without any distress signal. Her fate has been bedevilled by allegations of spying, fed by the official admission last year that government officials were spying by British trawlers were untrue, although the practice was said to have stopped in 1973.

An official inquiry in 1974 concluded that the ship was simply overwhelmed by exceptional storms. But a second report, based on the National Physical Laboratory tests, contradicted this and suggested that water must have penetrated the factory deck through an open door or hatch.

Mr Prescott, MP for Hull East, where 33 of the Gaul's crew lived — the second report, based on the National Physical Laboratory tests, contradicted this and suggested that water must have penetrated the factory deck through an open door or hatch.

Three firms flout NHS rules to raise prices of drugs

Sarah Bosseley
Health Correspondent

THREE drug companies within one month have defied the Department of Health and dramatically increased the prices of medicines they have taken over from bigger firms, it emerged yesterday.

On Tuesday, the Guardian revealed that Alliance Pharmaceuticals now charges eight times the original price for Syntometrine, a drug given to almost every woman giving birth to prevent haemorrhage. On June 28, the price went from 18p per dose to £1.40.

The firm did not have, and still does not have, the agreement of the Department of Health to the increase.

Two other companies, ICN Pharmaceuticals and Castlemead Healthcare, quickly followed.

On July 1, Castlemead took over Vallerger (used in allergies), Stemetil (an anti-nausea drug), and Aerocrom (an asthma inhaler), from Rhône-Poulenc Rorer. The prices were doubled.

On July 23, ICN bought the product licences for Mestison (used to treat the autoimmune disease myasthenia), mune disease drug), Alcobon (for fungal infections) and the tranquilliser Librium.

Alcobon doubled in price from £91.07 to £178.44 and the others went up fourfold — in the case of Mestison, from £11.14 to £50.15.

A Department of Health spokeswoman said it was aware of the increases. "The prices were raised without the department's agreement, and we are still awaiting justification," she said.

The companies' actions flout the pharmaceutical price regulation scheme, a voluntary agreement between pharmaceutical companies and the Government. The scheme caps the profits companies can make from the NHS and stipulates that any price rise must be agreed with the department.

The increases appear to suggest a worrying trend. In each case, a small company has bought the licence for old-established drugs from one of the pharmaceutical giants.

John Dawson was formerly financial director of Sandoz, which merged in March 1997 with Ciba to form the Novartis corporation. Mr Dawson left before the merger, and set up Alliance, which is based in Wiltshire, and took over 16 product licences from Novartis.

Novartis says all the drugs were uncompetitive to manufacture and sell because the prices had not been raised by more than a fraction for many years, although, under the scheme, Novartis was free to raise the price if it reduced the cost of another drug supplied to the NHS.

Novartis still manufactures the drug and supplies it to Alliance, but the money it makes from this transaction is not now part of its capped

He praised the £2.43 million survey, commissioned by the Government after the wreck was located last summer by Channel 4 following analysis of post-1974 net snags.

"If it is confirmed that the vessel contains the remains of your loved ones," Mr Prescott said in a message to relatives, "I hope they will be at rest in peace in keeping with the long seafaring tradition which looks on the sea as a noble and honourable resting place."

The Gaul was the pride of the British trawler fleet when it vanished in exceptionally severe weather, sinking without any distress signal. Her fate has been bedevilled by allegations of spying, fed by the official admission last year that government officials were spying by British trawlers were untrue, although the practice was said to have stopped in 1973.

An official inquiry in 1974 concluded that the ship was simply overwhelmed by exceptional storms. But a second report, based on the National Physical Laboratory tests, contradicted this and suggested that water must have penetrated the factory deck through an open door or hatch.

NHS profits. Alliance is seeking to charge the NHS far more to cover what it says are the true costs of production and marketing.

There are fears in parts of the pharmaceutical industry and among interested observers that the blatant breaches of the scheme may lead to its demise.

The scheme was originally devised to reward companies for their investment in research and development while protecting the NHS from exorbitant bills. What has emerged may affect re-negotiations under way between the department and the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries.

Mike Weekman, sales and marketing director of ICN Pharmaceuticals, admitted it did not have government agreement to raise prices, but claimed the company had informed the department.

There were a number of reasons for the rise in the price of Mestison, he said. "Part of that is to do with the promotion effort that we are going to put behind it, and the support for the product."

He declined to say what his company would do if the department would not agree to the rises.

"At the end of the day, that is not for me to say," he said. Such a decision would be made by the board of directors.

Mr Weekman said he thought the scheme had served the industry well, but there would be some changes when it was reviewed.



Two more to knock up the record... a brace of grouse testifies to the shooting skills of a client on a Scottish moor

PHOTOGRAPH: MURDO MACLEOD

Glory fades as grouse shooters bag little

Duncan Campbell

MAHARAJAH Duleep Singh bagged a record 220 brace of grouse on the first day of the season at Grandtully in Perthshire — but that was in 1871. Yesterday, the mix of hunt saboteurs, foul early summer and the strong pound meant the glorious twelfth went off with only a muted bang.

Grouse breeding on the estates in the north of England and Scotland was patchy this year because of disease, partly caused by the poor weather. And some regular foreign shooters are absent — from what are the world's only organised grouse shooting areas — perhaps finding the expense too much.

Lesley Ferguson of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) said yesterday that the lack of birds had meant no shooting on many of the northern English estates on the first day of

the season. "We lost 75 per cent of the chicks on some of the estates," she said. Stewart Scull, also of BASC, said: "We're concerned that under-shooting, which left too many birds on moors last year, may trigger a cyclical decline in the grouse population."

In Scotland, the BASC director, Colin Shedden, said there had been progressive decline in grouse shooting partly because of the growth of commercial forests, an increase in birds of prey, and a

decline in gamekeeping. He said there was "an awful lot of gloom and doom" but that Perthshire, Aberdeenshire and south of Inverness were looking quite good.

Most pleased was the Hunt Saboteurs Association. Members were active on nine or 10 estates yesterday. "It was an excellent day because the shooters didn't even leave the estate," said Dawn Preston, one of 50 trying to stop shooting at the Duke of Westminster's Abbeystead estate.

South east of Lancaster. Ms Preston said the shooters had called it a day early on. "But we will be out for as many days as possible," she said. "Grouse are bred only to be shot out of the sky for pleasure. There is no conservation argument at all."

About 450,000 grouse are shot annually on Britain's moors, with shooters spending thousands a week. Beaters earn about £18 daily — half the amount the Savoy charged for grouse at dinner last night.

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Television coverage on trial

Dan Gilmartin
Arts Correspondent

LOUISE WOODWARD is to make her first public appearance since returning from Boston at the Edinburgh International Television Festival at the end of the month, where she will face a coverage of a trial can affect public opinion.

The former pair convicted of causing the death of a baby in her care will take part in a panel session entitled "The Court of Public Opinion," along with her American lawyer, Barry Scheck, and two others.

"The trial of Louise Woodward was one of the biggest media stories of the last few years," said the festival's artistic chairman, Ruth Pitt. "We can learn from it. We're interested in the television coverage of her trial, not in the trial itself."

However, Ms Pitt stressed that Woodward would not be given an easy ride. "She is not being given an unequal platform: she will be appearing in a debate alongside three other panelists. But Louise is a unique witness because she has a particular story to tell."

Ms Woodward has impressed commentators since her return with her assurance before the media, which she demonstrated in a Panorama interview, and her apparent understanding of the media's role in the events surrounding her trial. She has been critical of the "circus" created in the United States by televised court hearings and trials.

She has clearly learned an awful lot about how the media work," Ms Pitt said. "She is a very assured woman and she has very firm views. She thought for quite a time about our invitation, and is clearly aware of what she is doing, and why."

The festival coincides with the first anniversary of the death and funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales. "We will be asking whether the media jumped or was pushed," said Ms Pitt.

"Did the media coverage help to provoke the outpouring of grief, or was it trailing in the wake of public opinion? We're really looking at people power and the way the media have to respond to the views of the people."

Sitting in judgement on the television executives will be a People's Jury, made up of a cross-section of viewers recruited through the Radio Times.

The festival will also examine honesty in television, prompted by recent outcries over documentaries such as

Carlton's Columbian Connection, which was revealed in the Guardian to have been faked.

Elizabeth Murdoch, estranged wife of the media mogul, will also address the festival, in her first important public appearance in Britain. "We've got a healthy absence of pompous debate about topics such as the future of the BBC," Ms Pitt said. "Instead we're going for a more lateral view and putting the needs and wishes of the viewer at the centre of our thinking."

The Edinburgh International Television Festival, sponsored by the Guardian, runs from August 28 to 31.

Prison shirts break out into fashion market

Amelia Gentleman

PRISON uniforms, designed to be practical, nondescript and durable enough to last a 10 year sentence, seem most unlikely fashion essentials — but demand for Her Majesty's Prisons official shirts is soaring among the fashion cognoscenti.

Enthusiasm for the standard blue and white striped item has become so great that suppliers are going to extremes to secure them for the public.

A former inmate at Kirkham Wood prison, Lancashire, has recently begun a new sentence at the prison after he was caught less than 10 minutes after his release trying to smuggle HMP issue shirts out of the jail to sell to fashion retailers.

This is not as extraordinary as it sounds. The utilitarian style of prison clothing echoes this year's catwalk designs, and its illicit connotations inevitably make it more coveted.

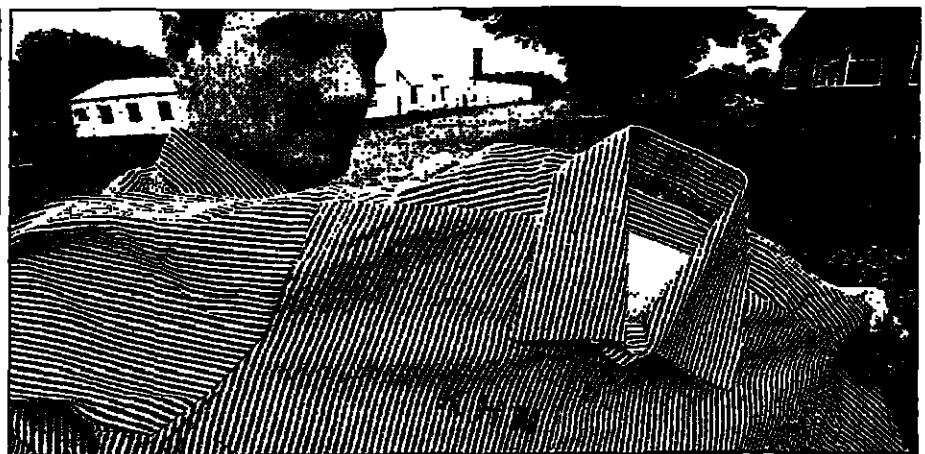
Gordon Groves, deputy governor of Kirkham Wood, said the man had been caught as he made off with 25 shirts stuffed inside two plastic bags. "This kind of theft goes on in prisons all over the country. There is a clear market for these shirts now they have become a fashion item," he said.

Resigned to the fact, Mr Groves has been forced to investigate why fashion collectors are disrupting the smooth running of his prison. He said most of the shirts were understood to be sold in London street markets, retailing at about £20 each, although some command more. Just as some football shirts are desirable and others spell fashion death, there is a clear grading for prison wear.

"We have HMP stamped on the front of the shirt in indelible ink, while Wandsworth prison has WW stamped on it — and we understand that they have a higher value than Kirkham shirts," he said. "It's to do with street cred. The more notorious the prison is, the higher the shirt's value, apparently."

Prison clothing is available legitimately — through Time, a chain of charity shops — but the fashion world is not interested because they are sold without the all-important prison stamp.

Mr Groves said he would call the police if he saw anyone wearing a stolen item, but he conceded he was unsurprised by the demand for them: "They are high quality — well-designed and well made by the prisoners themselves. They're good cotton shirts. Add to that the street cred of having a prison initial, it's not surprising that they are



An inmate displays a shirt from Kirkham Wood prison, in Lancashire, much sought after in the fashion world outside, where they can fetch at least £20

PHOTOGRAPH: DON MACPHEE

selling." Tamara Fulton, senior fashion editor at Arena magazine, said the trend for prison wear was in line with the direction men's designs were taking this year. "There will be a lot of work-wear tailoring for men this autumn and winter. That style of hard physical wear, utility clothing is coming back for men in a big way. It is the antithesis of luxury, the ultimate in functionality, and prison garb would fit well into that image."

Skyler Stock, a second-hand

clothing dealer with Rokit of Camden Town, London, said: "It's the work-wear look, which suits everything from skateboarding to raving. They are very popular, especially now that the loose style is so fashionable. We sell them from time to time, but only from American prisons. The older ones with the stripes and the prison numbers embroidered on them are very collectible and go for anything up to £250."

There is also an anti-establishment allure to prison

clothing, according to fashion design historian Juliet Ash. "It's not setting any trends in this field. Two years ago prison officials in Alabama were concerned that people wearing fashionable copies of the outfits worn by the rock-breaking chain gang might be mistaken for escaped inmates. Meanwhile, entrepreneurs in Oregon began to market their own line of designer jailhouse clothing. Their Prison Blues line was a mail order success story."

US accused of ignoring expert advice as 'unprecedented' bomb warnings close embassies around the world

Multiple threats put missions on alert

Gary Younge in Washington

MANY United States embassies have been temporarily closed, and several are to be relocated, in response to an unprecedented number of simultaneous bomb threats.

As Bill Clinton cut short his fundraising tour to meet the bodies of the American dead flown from Kenya, security was intensified. Embassies in Malaysia, Uganda and Yemen have suspended routine operations and diplomats in the Egyptian capital, Cairo, have been moved to a fortified building. The embassy in Kuwait was closed for a day for a security review.

The embassy in Swaziland was evacuated for several hours on Tuesday and business hours in the Ivory Coast have been cut back until security is improved. Improvements and reviews were also under way in Saudi Arabia and Sudan, the state department said.

"There may be a threat to US interests in Egypt, Malaysia and Yemen that could include attacks on buildings," an official said, adding that the precautions were prompted by "credible information".

Only days after President Clinton said that scaling down America's diplomatic presence around the world "would give terrorism a victory it must not and will not have", embassies are adjusting to new reality demonstrated by the bombings in Kenya and Tanzania.

Military jeeps controlled the area around the embassy in the Yemeni capital, Sana'a.

In Kuala Lumpur about 20 armed policemen from a Malaysian combat unit guarded the embassy compound. A petrol station nearby was closed.

The embassy spokesman said: "We're not worried about Malaysians. These threats are coming from outside the country."

The heightened security arrangements were put in place as details emerged of a previously suppressed Pentagon report, Tanzania 2000, which predicted that changing patterns in global terrorism could lead to attacks like those in Africa last week.

The report was produced for the Pentagon in 1993 by a group of experts which included a former Soviet KGB officer as well as officials



A bulldozer removes the remains of the pick-up truck thought to have held the bomb which wrecked the Nairobi embassy

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALESSANDRO ABBONIZIO

from the FBI, CIA and state department.

It warned that terrorists would try to heighten their impact by striking at a number of targets simultaneously. It also suggested that extremists would become increasingly indiscriminate in their choice of victims, in order to shock.

"Future terrorists will find they need ever more spectacular horrors to overcome America's capacity to absorb what previously would have

seemed intolerable," it says. "We must be prepared to defend against dangers that only a few years ago seemed impossible."

It was originally dismissed as alarmist and far-fetched, and the Pentagon refused to release even tame versions to Congress and the public. "They said, 'This is outrageous, this is crazy,'" said Marvin Cetron, one of its authors. "They felt it was too far-out and it would scare the hell out of the general public."

We've had some problems with people not listening. I think they're listening now."

The White House did act on several recommendations, including better protection of government computers and the offering of multi-million dollar rewards for information leading to the capture of the bombers.

Details were revealed after Bobby Inman, head of a commission set up after the embassy in Kuwait and Beirut were bombed in 1985, claimed

that a lack of political will and congressional funds and failure to act on his recommendations had left the Nairobi and Dar es Salaam missions vulnerable.

Neither of them met the standards outlined in his report. Nor had they been placed on a state department priority list for a security upgrade.

"I think that congressional support eroded over time," he said. "But I also think [the state

department], as their budget pressures got higher, cut back on what they requested. I also can't answer how effectively the money they got was spent."

A Pentagon spokesman said the report was never a classified document, and was not made public, because of a contractual arrangement with one of the authors. "It was for government use only and widely circulated. It was available for any agency who wanted it," he said.

US follows trail from Albania to embassy bombs

Jeffrey Smith on fears that CIA raids prompted revenge in Africa

A JOINT raid by Albanian and United States security services on what was believed to be the cell of an Islamic terrorist organisation in Tirana evidently went like clockwork.

The Albanians arrested two men who were suspected of working for Osama bin Laden — a Saudi expatriate and suspected sponsor of Islamic terrorism — and the Americans took custody of a large quantity of documents.

But soon afterwards things went awry: the Albanians leaked a sketchy account of the raid, including statements about the CIA's prominent role in its planning, to the country's largest-circulation newspaper.

Two weeks later, when a second raid was conducted in which two more suspects were arrested, any hope of keeping Washington's fingerprints off the operation had died.

Now Albanian and US officials are investigating whether the bombings of the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania last Friday may have been Mr Bin Laden's revenge for the CIA's role in the Tirana raids.

The seriousness with which the inquiry is viewed is demonstrated by the fact that several senior US intelligence officials have quietly visited Albania in the past few days, according to local sources.

Before the bombings, several Arab newspapers considered close to Islamic radicals had accused the CIA of funding over the four arrested men — all Egyptians to anti-terrorist officials in Egypt.

Officials note that Mr Bin Laden, who is now believed to be living in Afghanistan, has not claimed responsibility for the bombings. But he was quoted last month as saying that US decision-

makers needed to be taught a lesson not to fight "the Islamic nation".

Several independent Western security experts also suggest he may have made an alliance with Islamic militants linked to the Egyptian-based Jihad group, which released a statement before the bombings specifically threatening retaliation for the arrests.

The state department has previously described Mr Bin Laden as "one of the most significant sponsors of Sunni Islamic terrorist groups" and accused him of establishing terrorist cells in Bosnia, Chechnya, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen and Tajikistan.

It has yet to publicly make any link to activities in Albania, but the CIA fears the country is a safe haven for Mr Bin Laden's accomplices.

The ease with which the country can be penetrated was demonstrated by the fact that the four arrested men had entered Albania without proper documents and had worked and travelled widely.

Local sources said at least one of the suspects — 35-year-old Ahmed Ibrahim El-Nagar — was wanted by Cairo on charges of involvement in a previous terrorist attack.

Another suspect, Maged Mostafa, aged 36, had at his home faked documents and official Albanian stamps needed to get past customs and police checkpoints.

Mr Mostafa and two other suspects — Mohammed Fouda, aged 39, and Mohammed Hasan, aged 38 — were once associated with an independent Islamic charity that official sources in Albania say provided a cover for the men's efforts on behalf of Mr Bin Laden. — *Washington Post*.

As search ends, Kenya counts cost both human and financial

David Gough in Nairobi

IN the early hours of yesterday morning, the body of the woman known as Rose was pulled from the rubble in central Nairobi.

Her death ends hope of finding any more survivors from Friday's blast. It also marks the end of the rescue operation and the start of the investigation and clean-up.

Kenya must also begin to count the cost of the tragedy, which will reach way beyond what the east African country's already troubled economy can bear.

Tom Owar, the chairman of the Federation of Kenyan Employers, said: "We will need a lot of help from the donor community to deal with this. The consequences will be very far-reaching."

He said that he thought the cost of the disaster in terms of physical damage and lost revenue might be as high as \$200 million.

Long-running court cases are expected between businesses affected by the blast and insurance companies who have announced that properties damaged by acts of terrorism are not covered by their policies.

Revenue from tourism, one of Kenya's prime sources of foreign exchange, will also decline dramatically, especially after the United States advised its citizens not to travel to the country in the wake of the attack.

The warning has angered Kenyans, many of whom depend on tourism for their livelihood and who already feel that the US could and should have shown a lot more

sensitivity towards the suffering of Kenyans.

Since Friday's blast, US officials have given the impression that their rich and powerful country is oblivious to the massive losses that Kenya has sustained. In both human and financial terms, Kenya's losses are far greater than those of the US.

On Tuesday, Velma Bonyea spent her fifth consecutive day touring the hospitals and mortuaries of Nairobi searching for her missing husband, Cristin, an accountant at the US embassy in Nairobi since 1991.

The dead bodies of the two women with whom she shared an office were found days ago. Mrs Bonyea said the US embassy had given her little real assistance in her lonely search.

"They have not given me

any money for my transport around Nairobi as I look for my husband," she said. "I have been left alone to take buses all around town."

A gruesome part of Mrs Bonyea's daily routine since the bombing has been to file past bodies in the city mortuary.

Many of the remains are barely recognisable and are in various stages of decomposition. Like others who have seen the mass of bodies there, Mrs Bonyea will not forget the sight.

If, as seems likely, her husband is found dead, Mrs Bonyea will join hundreds of others in the long and desperate struggle of trying to cope with the traumatic legacy of the bombing.

Bernard Myrangi, who was in the Kenya Railways building opposite the embassy



when the bombers struck, said that he cannot shake the sound of the explosion from his mind. "Whenever I hear a noise

Lawrence Irungu (left) waits in Nairobi yesterday where the search was continuing for his wife, Rose. She was later found dead. Right: rescuers remove another body from the ruins



from outside," he said from his hospital bed. "I think that it's the bomb again."

Another office worker caught up in the blast, Chil-

news of the attack on television, that smell just comes back to me."

Mr Bosire, who was working on the sixth floor of the Co-operative Bank House at the time of the blast, said that he didn't think he would be able to go back into that building again.

"In fact I never want to see that building again," he said. "I just want to forget about everything that happened that day."

The number of people exposed to the smoke means that Mr Bosire is now trying to come to terms with runs into thousands.

John Sparrow, who works for the Red Cross, said that he thought "there is an immediate and obvious need for a trauma treatment programme" in order to help people cope.

Palestinian businessman 'tortured to death by police extortionists'

Julian Borger in Jerusalem

THE death of an insurance broker while under arrest in Jericho this week was part of a pattern of imprisonment and torture by which Yasser Arafat's police have extorted more than \$1 million from ordinary Palestinian businessmen, a human rights group claimed yesterday.

Walid al-Qawasme, aged 45, a father of eight, was taken to hospital on Sunday after spending two weeks in detention without charge. He died a few hours later, while being transferred between clinics.

The Palestinian General Intelligence Service (GIS), which arrested Qawasme, initially declared he had died of a heart attack. But the victim's brother said an autopsy had revealed skull fractures and internal bleeding. Other relatives said there were clear signs on the body of torture.

After a public outcry, Amin al-Hudbi, the GIS director, issued a statement yesterday saying he had been "deeply affected" by Qawas-



Yasser Arafat yesterday on a visit to the South African prison cell once occupied by President Nelson Mandela

meh's death, and announcing that the officers involved were being questioned.

Bassem Eid, head of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group, said evidence was emerging that Qawasme, who ran an insurance office in Bethlehem, had been arrested on suspicion of tax evasion and tortured in an attempt to force him to hand over money.

"It seems to have been a purely commercial mat-

ter," Mr Eid said. His organisation has interviewed 36 Palestinian businessmen arrested by the security services and forced to pay "taxes" they allegedly owed to Yasser Arafat's Authority, of which Mr Arafat is the leader.

"They are arresting people to get cash in a completely illegal process. The money they have collected from people adds up to 7 million shekels [\$1.5 million],"

Mr Eid said. His organisation has interviewed 36 Palestinian businessmen arrested by the security services and forced to pay "taxes" they allegedly owed to Yasser Arafat's Authority, of which Mr Arafat is the leader.

The security forces were accused last year of a string of extra-judicial killings of Arab land-dealers rumoured to have sold land to Israelis.

News in brief

Accused Italian magistrate kills himself after questioning

THE reputation of Italy's justice system has suffered yet another blow following the suicide of a Sicilian magistrate accused of extortion, writes Philip Willan in Rome.

Luigi Lombardini, aged 63, a former senior investigator

of kidnappings, shot himself late on Tuesday after he had been interrogated for five hours by Sicilian colleagues.

He reportedly broke loose from police who were about to search his office, locked the door and shot himself with a pistol he kept in his desk.

Under investigation for

complicity in an attempt to extort money from the father of a kidnap victim, he was questioned by a team of four Palermo prosecutors earlier on Tuesday.

Lombardini and two other suspects were accused of ex-

tracting money from Tito Melis by claiming that they had made contact with the kidnappers of his daughter, Silvia. At one point Lombardini allegedly met Mr Melis and warned him his daughter would be killed if he failed to pay \$250,000.

Algerian train hit by bomb

A BOMB exploded on an Algerian train yesterday killing seven people and wounding 11, security forces said.

The train, which was heading for Algiers from the west, was passing through Ain Torki in Ain Defla province, 80 miles south-west of Algiers, when the bomb exploded.

It was the second explosion on the line in two months. At least 13 people were killed and 31 hurt in June when a bomb ripped through a passenger train near a hamlet in Ain Defla.

At the time local newspapers quoted survivors criticising the government for failing to provide security in trains, which have been regular targets for bombs. — *Reuters*.

Fijians droop from local brew

A TRADITIONAL Fijian drink that produces a mild high also suppresses the libido and is threatening the populations of some of the Pacific islands, the country's health minister said yesterday.

Leo Smith said village chiefs on islands in the eastern Lau group complained that young men had become

so addicted to kava they had lost their sex drive and were not marrying. Known locally as *yagone*, kava is increasingly being used as a substitute for beer, which is more expensive.

Because of its anti-depressant and sedative qualities, kava is being processed by pharmaceutical companies in the West. — *AP*.

Troops fail to end protest

Troops using a stun grenade and tear-gas failed to break up a demonstration by 500 protesters in front of King Letisile III's palace in Lesotho's capital, Maseru.

The demonstrators, on the ninth day of their protest, support claims by the opposi-

tion that May's general election was rigged. — *Reuters*.

Long shot

Andres Perez, aged 21, has been charged by police after shooting his gun into the air from his home on Long Island. One of the bullets hit a woman sunbathing in her garden nearly a mile away and lodged 4in into her abdomen. — *AP*.

Migrants use fair as cover

POLICE in the tiny Spanish enclave of Ceuta on the tip of North Africa arrested more than 600 would-be immigrants, including 92 clinging to truck axles or hiding among amusement park rides as Ferris wheels and merry-go-rounds, said an interior ministry spokesman in Ceuta.

The trucks were due to be ferried across the Strait of Gibraltar to mainland Spain. Police and the civil guard said they had arrested 612 people who had entered the enclave illegally from neighbouring Morocco. — *AP*.

كندا والاردن

Clinton cuts trip short to plot strategy

Martin Kettle in Washington

BILL CLINTON abruptly cut short a coast-to-coast political fundraising tour yesterday and returned to the White House to prepare for his crucial grand jury testimony on Monday in the Monica Lewinsky case.

Abandoning a planned visit to Wisconsin, the president returned to Washington from California in the early hours and plunged into five days of in-house meetings planning for the confrontation with his accusers.

Mr Clinton tried to play down the mood of crisis, telling supporters in Los Angeles before he left: "No matter what you read, every day has been a joy for me."

Taking its cue from the president, the White House tried to present a picture of business as usual, stressing that Mr Clinton had important meetings with security advisers in the aftermath of the east African bombings. Mr Clinton will also lead the reception party at Andrews air force base in Maryland today when the coffins of American victims are brought back to the United States.

But there was little attempt to disguise that large parts of Mr Clinton's time yesterday and during the coming days will be taken up with coaching and strategy meetings in the run-up to Monday's decisive grand jury session, which is expected to last between six and eight hours.

As a prelude to the first coaching sessions with Mr Clinton yesterday, his chief private lawyer, David Kendall, spent much of Tuesday viewing the video of the president's evidence in January in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case. Although he has a transcript of Mr Clinton's evidence on that occasion, Mr Kendall is believed to have wanted to examine the president's body language and tone of voice.

Unusually in these grand jury proceedings, Mr Clinton has been allowed to give his evidence by video link from the White House, with Mr Kendall by his side. The other witnesses have been required to attend hearings alone.

Mr Kendall is one of the tightly knit group of legal experts whose advice and decisions over the next few days may determine the fate of the Clinton presidency. In the face of the independent counsel Kenneth Starr's determination to question anyone with access to Mr Clinton, this handful of legally privileged advisers has become the president's subpoena-proof inner circle as he prepares for the greatest personal challenge of his political career.

In addition to Mr Kendall, a Yale contemporary of the Clintons, the group coaching

'No matter what you read, every day has been a joy for me'

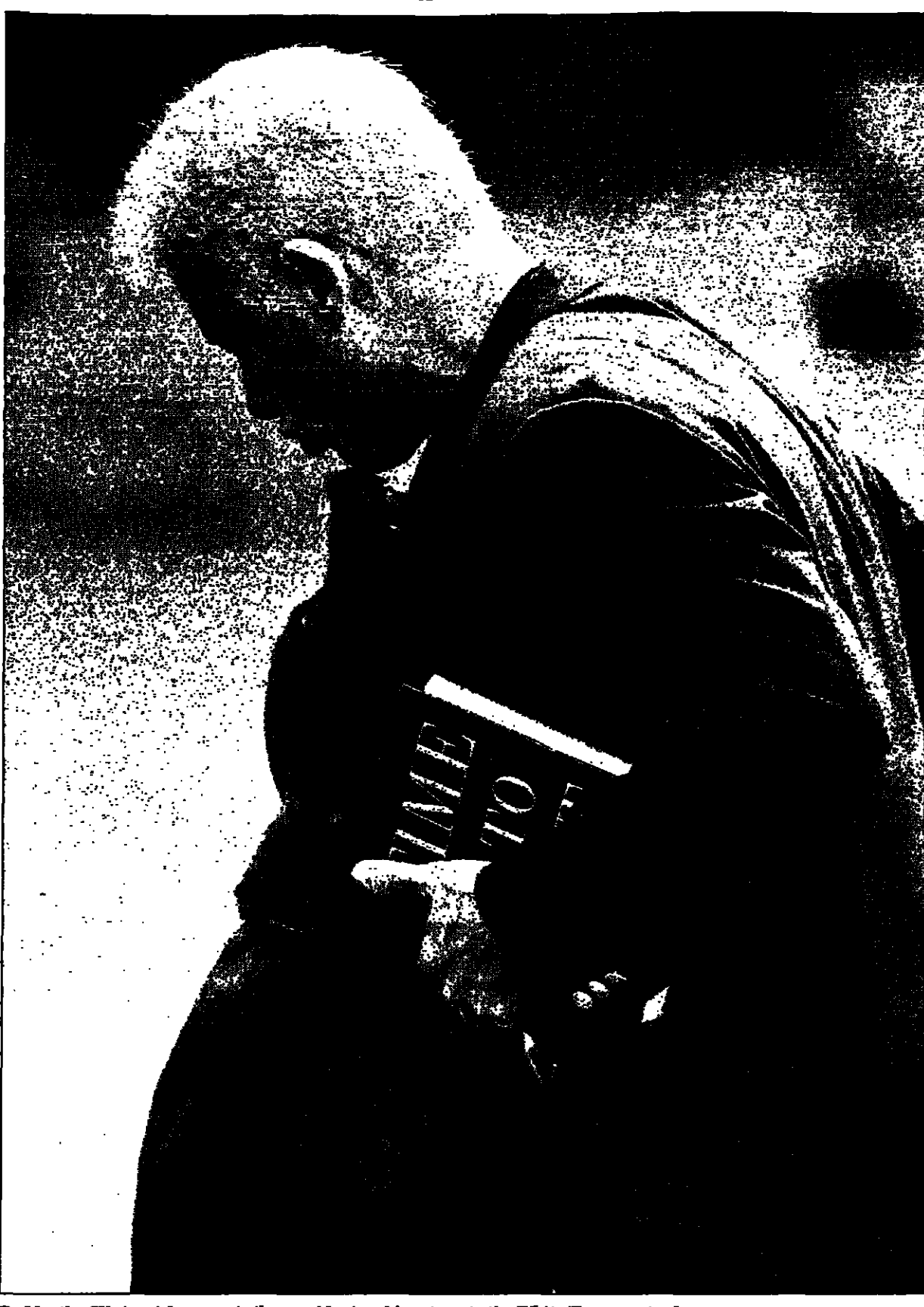
Bill Clinton

Mr Clinton comprises Nicole Seligman, a partner in Mr Kendall's firm, and Mickey Kantor, a long-time intimate of the Clintons who was US trade representative in the president's first term. These three, with the First Lady, Hillary Clinton, will be closed with the president during the coming days.

There have been persistent suggestions in Washington this week that Mr Clinton may yet try to postpone Monday's session. The White House dismisses these claims as disinformation from Mr Starr's office. But the format of Monday's hearing has not been settled, and Washington legal sources say it remains possible that Mr Clinton might decide to attend the courthouse in person if his advisers judged he would make better use of his communication skills in a face-to-face session.

A crucial piece of evidence regarding Mr Clinton's relationship with Ms Lewinsky, and thus a central issue in the planning sessions, remains the former White House intern's dress, allegedly stained with the president's semen. Tests on the dress have been completed, but it is unclear whether the results will be reported to Mr Clinton before Monday. Several legal sources say Mr Starr appears to be trying to trap Mr Clinton into false testimony by keeping the results secret.

Unsurprisingly, reports in the American press yesterday suggested that Mr Starr had decided that his long-awaited report to Congress on all his investigations into Mr Clinton's conduct would be limited to the Lewinsky case. The reports said Mr Starr would have little to say about the White House land deal or the other allegations against the Clintons. The report is expected to be sent to Congress next month.



Buddy, the Clintons' dog, greets the president on his return to the White House yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: ROBERT GRIFFIN

Burma rebel on the road again

Nick Cumming-Bruce in Bangkok

BURMA'S pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi was heading for another stand-off with the ruling generals yesterday after she made a new attempt to drive out of the capital.

The leader of the National League for Democracy left her house in Rangoon yesterday morning in her second attempt to visit supporters in the western town of Bassein.

But security agents stopped the vehicle, reportedly close to the spot 20 miles from the capital where she last month spent six days defying their orders to return.

The trip, her fourth attempt in a month to exercise a legal right to travel, came as Japan called on the junta to open a substantive dialogue with Ms Aung San Suu Kyi. Tokyo described her treatment as "deplorable".

The last stand-off ended when security men seized Ms Aung San Suu Kyi and drove her back to Rangoon.

Although she was stricken by fever and dehydration after her six-day ordeal, during which military agents cut off supplies of food and water, visitors say Ms Aung San Suu Kyi has recovered and is in buoyant mood.

She is again travelling with the NLD executive member Hla Pe and two drivers, and seems better prepared. Instead of using a saloon car, she has borrowed a van better suited for a long wait.

The likely stand-off will focus international attention on Burma and the junta. Foreign scrutiny may also be sharpened by the junta's announcement yesterday that it no longer took responsibility for her safety. This U-turn follows her demand last week that the authorities remove military agents posted at her home.

Rights ignored as Congo settles scores

Lynne Duke in Kinshasa

RESPECT for human rights has deteriorated dangerously during the eight days of civil war in Congo, according to diplomatic and humanitarian agency sources who report that Congolese and Rwandans have been executed, Americans taken hostage, and embassies and the United Nations denied their customary protection.

Abuses are committed by both President Laurent Kabila's armed forces and the ethnic Tutsi soldiers, backed by Rwanda's mostly Tutsi army, who are trying to topple him. The allied Tutsi forces are those that overthrew the late Mobutu Sese Soko in May last year and installed Mr Kabila in his place. They have been joined by some non-Tutsi troops from Mobutu's defeated army who were inducted into Mr Kabila's forces.

They have captured towns in the eastern and western extremities of Congo, which government forces are trying to retake.

Tutsis have long been the target of resentment and anger in Congo. Although their roots in eastern Congo go back several generations, Congolese of other ethnic groups often refer to them as foreigners, usually as Rwandans. The enmity was heightened when Mr Kabila kept many Tutsis in his government and allowed them to remain in Congo after Mobutu was thrown out. As regional and ethnic alliances shift and the fear of increased foreign involvement in the war increases, parts of this highly fluid and volatile



Government troops pass through the capital, Kinshasa, yesterday. There is no fighting in the city, but Laurent Kabila's forces are rounding up Tutsi soldiers and civilians

PHOTOGRAPH: PETER ANDREWS

country are fast plunging into anarchy. The capital, Kinshasa, is in chaos. Although there has been no fighting there since skirmishes when the rebellion began on August 3, soldiers, police and intelligence agents have been rounding up Tutsi troops and civilians, some denounced by their fellow citizens.

Two Burundian Tutsi diplomats were detained briefly by Mr Kabila's troops on Monday and the Burundian am-

bassador was subjected to ethnic abuse when he tried to intervene, a diplomat said. On the same day troops tried to enter and search the UN headquarters, but were convinced by UN officials that they had no right to do so.

Detained Tutsis are being held at a military camp, a hotel and a security headquarters, given little food and water and crammed into cells so crowded that they must sleep sitting up and relieve

themselves on the spot, according to a witness, who added that several people had been executed.

A government statement last week said any Tutsi found with a weapon would be executed on the presumption that he or she had been part of the rebellion.

The government has set up a committee under the human rights minister, Leonard Shikundu, to look at the issue. Mr Shikundu told a news con-

ference on Tuesday that government officials had visited the places where the Tutsis are being held, and added: "These prisoners are well treated, contrary to what some foreign media are saying."

The interior minister, Gaston Kikudji, said the detentions were "a preventive measure to shield the Rwandan women and children and [Congolese Tutsis] from lynching".

Diplomatic missions are

holding talks with the government about the future of the detainees. One possibility is to classify them as stateless and fly them out of the country, a diplomat said. Congolese officials want them flown to Rwanda, even though many of them are Congolese, he added.

In rebel-held territory near the mouth of the Congo, soldiers took 10 United States Peace Corps volunteers, two Canadians and a Belgian hostage on Sunday night in the town of Boma, according to diplomats and an oil industry source. They had sought refuge from the fighting at a Unicef compound. Rebels robbed them of all they had and seized UN vehicles.

After a tense siege and negotiations with diplomats, the 13 were given safe passage downriver to Banana, also in rebel hands, from where they were evacuated.

In eastern Congo Rwandan-backed rebel troops are accused of picking on other ethnic groups in much the same way as Tutsis are targeted in the capital. In North and South Kivu provinces, where the rebels have seized the towns of Goma, Bukavu and Uvira on the border with Rwanda and Burundi, the Tutsi rebels are reported to be settling scores with Katan-gese, Hutus and Bembes.

Intellectuals, professionals and members of local organisations have also been rounded up, and foreign workers are under threat.

In Bukavu, rebel troops tortured and threatened to execute an Algerian Unicef doctor who resisted their attempts to steal communications equipment, a diplomat said. — Washington Post.

German optimism cheers Kohl as poll gap narrows

Ian Traynor in Bonn

HELMUT KOHL of Germany yesterday announced he will effectively retire from politics if he fails to win a fifth term in general elections in six weeks' time.

But a relaxed and refreshed chancellor, back on the campaign trail after his annual Austrian lakeside holiday, oozed confidence as the fine print of opinion polls suggested a midsummer mood swing across the country.

While a poll from the respected conservative Allensbach institute yesterday put Gerhard Schröder's Social Democrats (SPD) 10 points ahead of Mr Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) and their Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU), the survey showed growing public confidence in the economy and confusion about Mr Schröder and what he represents.

Mr Kohl seized on the findings to proclaim he was on a winning streak, that the apparent shift from ingrained pessimism to optimism was due to his government, and that on September 27 voters would shrink from putting Mr Schröder in power.

Renate Köcher, an Allensbach polling analyst, said the electorate's mood had changed decisively, with 52 per cent of east Germans and 51 per cent of west Germans viewing the year ahead hopefully. "For the first time in three years the majority of the population is optimistic about the future," she said.

Mr Kohl, presenting the CDU/CSU manifesto on

Europe and on jobs, said that if the Social Democrats won in September, he would give up the chancellorship to the CDU, the party he has run for 25 years.

While declaring a commitment to greater European integration, the manifesto said: "Our vision is of a Europe of nations and regions. The CDU and the CSU say no to a centralised European federal state."

It claimed the introduction of the single European currency in five months' time as a triumph of German policy and diplomacy. Theo Waigel, the finance minister and CDU leader, said: "Maastricht bears a German signature. The euro speaks German."

For months, Mr Schröder and the SPD have been comfortably ahead of Mr Kohl in the polls, but the gap has narrowed four points in a month, while support for Mr Schröder shrank from 38 per cent to 33 per cent.

The general belief that the SPD will win in September is also receding, with points between June and July. As the shape of a potential Schröder cabinet becomes clearer, the public appears unimpressed. Two out of three voters preferred the current foreign, interior, and labour ministers over Mr Schröder's nominees.

"What is known about the contours of an SPD government has partially triggered confusion and a sobering up," said Ms Köcher.

Serbs regain strategic village

Jonathan Steele in Pristina

SERB police regained control yesterday of a key village in western Kosovo which Kosovan rebels had used to maintain their supply lines of weapons from Albania.

Glodjane is about three miles east of the main road which runs parallel to the border with Albania. Yugoslav army and Serb police destroyed most of the villages next to the road in their May offensive.

Now they are targeting communities a little further away in an attempt to create a

free-fire zone. They also hope to reduce ambushes by the Kosovo Liberation Army. Fighters from Glodjane have killed five policemen and two soldiers in recent days.

But the police have still not taken Junik, the last remaining KLA village next to the border, which they have been blockading for 10 days.

In spite of international condemnation, the Serbs are continuing to torch abandoned villages. Smoke could be seen from Kijev in central Kosovo yesterday and reporters visiting deserted villages have found dozens of empty lighter fuel bottles.



Chirac: Ordered his adviser to obtain promises that French influence would be maintained

Paul Webster in Paris

PRESIDENT Jacques Chirac of France has given personal encouragement to the rebellion in Congo, delegating advisers to meet rebel leaders in Paris in the hope of restoring French influence in former Zaire.

Despite international criticism of its role in supplying arms used in the Rwanda massacres and its support for Mobutu's tyranny, Paris has taken the lead in weakening Laurent Kabila's regime. Mr Chirac's intervention runs counter to his repeated claim that France's post-colonial policy has changed and that interference in

African affairs has been officially ended.

The weekly Le Canard Enchaîné revealed that presidential aides had held several meetings with anti-Kabila plotters in the past nine months, a report implicitly confirmed by officials who said that France was better placed than the United States to resolve the African crisis.

The Gaullist presidency and the foreign affairs ministry, headed by the leftwing Hubert Védrine, appeared to agree that France had a positive role to play in ending Mr Kabila's anti-French government. But both said that France's role was limited to diplomatic activity and that no material aid had been given to the rebels.

Good relations with the rebel leader, Arthur Z'Angambi Ngoma, date back at least to 1996, when France secretly supported his claims to succeed Mobutu.

Mr Chirac told his African affairs adviser, the late Jacques Foccart, to meet Mr Ngoma and obtain promises that France's influence would be maintained. In May, Mr Ngoma chose France as a refuge to avoid a prison sentence for opposing Mr Kabila.

Recent high-level French contacts with the conspirators began in December. Elysée aides were given the views of Mr Ngoma, Desgratias Bugeya, a leader of the alliance of democratic forces, and Michel Tchibuzumba, one of Mr Ka-

bila's roving diplomats.

There was no confirmation that the rebel leaders attended personally.

But Le Canard said Mr Chirac had known since December the conspirators' names, their first meeting places in Belgium, and their intentions. "At the head of their programme was renewed friendship with France, an end to Kabila's francophobia and a better balanced relationship with the United States."

It claimed that French diplomats were openly pleased at the US failure to reinforce Mr Kabila's authority, and quoted one as saying: "They know very little about Africa and are now discovering how complicated the continent really is."



Kabila: French diplomats were openly pleased at US failure to reinforce his authority

Comment

Diary

Simon Bowers

THE tale of Hull trawler, the Gaul, which sank off the coast of Norway 24 years ago may now be told in full. John Prescott, deputy PM and Hull East MP, kindly consented to the BBC joining the Mansel 18 survey ship — which completed its work yesterday evening — as it endeavoured to uncover what actually happened. However, despite rediscovering the wreck last year, independent filmmaker Norman Fenton has not been allowed aboard. Similarly the Hull Daily Mail has been barred from the boat and forbidden to speak to the investigation team. "The Mail know why they weren't chosen to go on the survey ship," says a cryptic DTER press officer when we call. "You better speak to them about that." Prescott's constituency problems, it appears, continue.

A DELIGHTFUL home-made card arrives on the Diary desk. "Thank you for your continued support," it reads, "and that of your readers as well. If we win this election be rest assured we will look after you." It is from Her Majesty's private and some say dangerous house guest, Charles Bronson — currently campaigning to be Mayor of London. The front of the card depicts a tiny mouse (with fangs) scuttling across a stone floor beneath a three-bolted door marked "Solitary Confinement: Isolation". The chilling horror of the scene is delicately offset only by a homely doormat. "Home sweet home," it reads. While we understand that Bronson is now in communication with the Diary's so-called rivals, we nevertheless thank him for his message of "max respect", and wish him all the best.

WHILE the BBC may have a monopoly over the Gaul story, we are pleased that their internal market is not altogether lacking in competitive spirit. Having discovered a temporary shortage of office paper yesterday, the sports department approached their new neighbours at Television Centre, BBC Radio 5 Live, cap in hand. "Could you," they asked, "lend us some of yours?" In the true spirit of competition the request was denied.

WE were initially excited about receiving an e-mail contribution for our People-Friendly Guide to New Labour. While unsure how to operate this technology ourselves, it is certainly the kind of exciting communication channel we like to encourage — well done Tom Freeman of Cambridge. Sadly, the content of Mr Freeman's note lets him down. In responding to our open invitation to define the complex aphorism "equality of opportunity", he suggests it "roughly translates as kill or be killed". While you may think you have grasped the importance of market forces to the party, Tom, your cynicism, grates. Enjoy your Champagne.

MANY Andrew Lloyd Webber fans will be thrilled by the news that he is to return to these shores this week, briefly breaking from his two-month holiday in France and Spain. Despite an initial pledge not to come back until October, he will be joining the boy-band Boyzone on piano for a performance of their number one hit single, No Matter What — taken from L-W's new show, Piffle Down the Wind — to be screened on BBC1's Top of the Pops this Friday. "I think the British public have probably seen quite enough of my face for the time being," you will recall him saying before starting his holiday.

FOLLOWING yesterday's report of a parliamentary football retreat taking place at Littlehampton Human Performance Centre in Shropshire next month, more news reaches the Diary of football ladism in high places. Celtic fans will be aware of the latest team video celebrating last season's league triumph. Various golden moments are captured, and so, inadvertently, is the face of one Pat McFadden of Downing Street's policy unit.



It's a respite, not a reprieve. The Bank thinks things can only get worse

Larry Elliott



FOR those Government ministers left behind to mind the shop while the Prime Minister and the Chancellor are on their hols, yesterday's news on the economy no doubt came as a blessed relief.

After days in which the bad news — job losses, gloomy surveys, a sharp fall in the stock market, plunging consumer confidence — had been piling up, official figures showed that the number of people out of work and claiming benefit last month dropped by 26,000 in July. What's more, this was combined with a moderation in the growth of earnings, enough perhaps to prevent the Bank of England from any further increases in interest rates.

But the data provides the Government with a respite, not a reprieve. This may be the last good news on the economy for some while and over the next six months we can expect to suffer a glut of Cabinet bigwigs on the Today programme explaining why everything is going according to plan.

Actually, it was abundantly clear from the Bank's inflation Report yesterday that the people now responsible for setting interest rates expect the economy to get a lot worse.

Mervyn King, the Bank's deputy-governor, admitted yesterday that there was a one in eight chance of an outright recession next year. Indeed, the Bank sees higher unemployment as necessary to curb the lid inflation, and if the public total continues to fall it may trigger further increases in the cost of borrowing, which would then

shorten the odds on a hard landing.

There are three issues at stake. Is Britain really heading for its fourth recession in less than 25 years? Is the Government's economic policy really Thatcherism in different clothes? And what could ministers do to prevent recession?

The conventional wisdom is that Britain is heading for a slowdown, not a slump. But it was also the "conventional wisdom" that Britain would enjoy a soft landing after the Lawson boom and that the devaluation on Black Wednesday would lead to an unstoppable surge in inflation. The conventional wisdom has a nasty habit of turning out not to have been wise after all.

That said, an outright recession should be averted, but only if policy-makers stop fighting the last war. For the past quarter of a century — ever since the first oil shock of 1973 — economic policy has been dominated by the need to conquer inflation. All other goals of economic policy were made subordinate to this over-riding goal.

Today, a different problem is looming. Not since the 1930s has there been such a risk of deflation — a period of global falling prices. The former tiger economies of Asia are contracting at a frightening pace, there are fears for the long-term health of the US, firms everywhere are under relentless pressure to shore up profits by cutting costs. The bias should be towards growth rather than squeezing the last drop out of inflation.

So what then is Labour up to? There are some who wonder whether they have been

magically transported back to Mrs Thatcher's Britain circa 1981 when they see headlines about the toll being taken by the strong pound and hear Government warnings to workers that they risk pricing themselves out of jobs unless they show pay restraint.

Labour's macro-economic strategy is certainly orthodox; indeed, it is in some ways even more orthodox than that run by the Conservatives: now that day-to-day control of the economy has been handed over to the Bank add that strict rules for borrowing have been formalised. However, it would be quite wrong (and unfair) to say that Labour's overall strategy is Thatcherism in a new guise. Under the Conservatives there would have been no minimum wage, no commitment to higher investment in the public sector, no New Deal for the unemployed.

THE Government's core belief is that — over the long term — it will pay to be orthodox. It believes that keeping inflation low and stable will create the conditions for stronger growth and this will allow it to do all the good things it wants to do. It is convinced that it would pay a high price for deviation from the orthodoxy. As one of the characters in David Hare's *Absence of War* — his play about Labour in the 1992 election — puts it: "We've worked on this strategy for hour upon hour. Because, like it or not, nobody trusts us to do the economy. So we must convince them we're good managers now."

The Prime Minister and the Chancellor argue that there is really no alternative to this managerial approach, because either Labour would never get into power or — if by some miracle it did — it would quickly be hobbled by the financial markets if it tried anything that smacked of its Keynesian past.

The coming months will test this theory. A modest slowdown in the economy of the kind Bill Clinton managed in his first term would be welcomed as a way of clearing the way for a pick-up in growth as the next election approaches. A full-scale recession is not part of the script, not least because it would ask serious questions about Labour's new-found managerial skill.

Given all this, can the Government do anything to mitigate the chances of a hard landing? There are a few options. It could come up with a Medium Term Growth Strategy, as envisaged in Labour's Economic Policy Commission three years ago, and re-write the terms of the Bank's remit so that growth is taken into account when interest rate decisions are made. It could raise taxes on consumers sharply, as some say it should have done after the election. It could start saying that the pound is woefully over-valued, a tactic deployed by Chancellors with great gusto in the 1980s.

Will it do any of this? Don't bank on it. Any of these options run the risk that Labour would be seen as soft, reneging on promises to Middle England, reverting to Old Labour. Instead, having made their bed, ministers are going to have to lie in it. Even if it becomes a bed of nails.

THE question is do Labour's feet of clay undermine whatever merit The Prophet has? Gibran did not delude himself that he had lived his message. He said once that "I must live this or it is meaningless". His biographer, Robin Waterfield, is ambivalent about the question: "What if we learnt that Ezekiel had been a lecherous old man, would that undermine the Old Testament?" Waterfield thinks the real issue is authenticity. "Gibran was not a mystic. He did not have direct experience of being divinely inspired, nor did he have 30 years of solid meditative practice. A lot of his stuff is second hand. He

Running on MMT

George Monbiot



THREE weeks ago, something happened in Canada. It could not have been very important because hardly anyone on this side of the Atlantic is even aware that it took place.

A total of four column inches in the British newspapers was devoted to the event. The handful of people who bothered to read them would have learnt that a company no one has heard of, which makes a product whose name no one can pronounce, received some money from the Canadian government and an assurance that it could continue making the product.

It is the butterfly's wing over North America that will cause a hurricane in Europe. The company is called the Ethyl Corporation, and its product is a chemical called methylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl, or — and let us thank God for acronyms — MMT.

MMT is a fuel additive which is mixed with petrol to prevent engine knocking. Many scientists believe it is also a dangerous neurotoxin. Manganese entering the body through the lungs causes nerve damage which can lead to psychosis, memory loss, and early death.

Until last year, Canada was the only country on earth in which MMT was sold. It is legal to sell it in most of the US — but surveys suggest that suppliers will not stock it, not least because it appears to damage car engines, causing the release of other pollutants.

Canadian MPs questioned why their citizens should be exposed to this peculiarly unpleasant species of pollution. After a long and intelligent debate, the parliament voted to ban it in April 1997. Had the vote taken place three years earlier, the Ethyl Corporation would have had to abide by the decision. A sovereign parliament had decided to protect its citizens from a deadly poison, and that, you would imagine, would have been the end of the matter.

ETHYL sued the Canadian government for the "expropri-

ation" of its "property" (namely its anticipated profits) and the "damage" to its "good reputation" caused by the parliamentary debate. It took its suit to NAFTA, where a secret tribunal — whose records are not disclosed and whose decisions cannot be appealed — began to assess the case. Last month, the tribunal ruled in favour of Ethyl, realising that its chances of success were approximately zero, settled with Ethyl.

It agreed to allow the corporation to resume sales of MMT in Canada. It agreed to pay Ethyl \$18 million in compensation. It agreed, too, to mislead its citizens. Upon setting, it announced that "MMT poses no health risk". So what has any of this got to do with us? Well, the NAFTA rules allowing the Ethyl Corporation to sue the Canadian government are almost identical to the provisions of the Multilateral Agreement on Investment which, if passed, will allow corporations to sue the governments, such as Britain's, which sign it. This is not surprising, because the MAI was modelled on NAFTA, to "harmonise" investment standards in the rest of the world with North America.

For the past year and a half, British ministers have been assuring us that the MAI does "not affect the rights of signatories to carry out normal regulation", that it will "weaken neither environmental regulation nor worker protection" and that it contains "nothing... that gives investors the right to be compensated for lost profits". Far

This butterfly's wing will cause a hurricane in Europe

from undermining domestic legislation, it simply establishes that foreign investors should be treated no less favourably than domestic investors.

Yet MMT was banned in Canada irrespective of who produced it: the rules were precisely the same for foreign and domestic investors. This, as campaigners predicted, offered no protection at all to the sovereignty of the Canadian parliament.

In March this year, a ragged band of voluntary bodies and direct activists won an extraordinary victory against the MAI. By exposing the monumental threat to democracy it posed, they forced the governments engaged in secret negotiations to postpone the agreement.

Now Britain and the other negotiators are trying again. Again they will tell us that it presents no threat to the democratic process. Again they will tell us that it will not undermine the protection of workers, consumers or the environment. And again they will be wrong.

A damning new biography of Kahlil Gibran raises the question: why this patricidal urge to destroy figures who shaped our culture?

Prophet's loss

Madeleine Bunting



IF YOU had to name the top three best-selling poets of all time, you'd probably get Shakespeare right, but Lao Tzu or Kahlil Gibran? Gibran, a Lebanese-American who, according to a new biography out later this month, died a lonely, alcoholic death, wrote arguably the most influential religious book this century. The Prophet, its sales have run into six figures, reaching a peak in the sixties when it was de rigueur reading for the explosion of hippy spirituality blending self-development with eastern mysticism. Recent reviews of Gibran's

biography have dismissed The Prophet as banal, platitudinous and mawkish. Ouch. Some reviewers, incredulous that this "prime specimen of transcendental guff" has sold nine million copies in the US alone, have been bewildered as to who had bought them all.

I'll come clean and admit to buying several copies. I was given it as a present at 15 and in turn gave it to several friends judged in need of spiritual inspiration. At 15, The Prophet, along with Jonathan Livingston Seagull, was a revelation. (For achingly mawkish texts, try the latter.) But in the stultifying environment of a convent boarding school, both books were a liberation.

What both offered was a spirituality of the self. The emphasis on individuality and freedom, self-fulfilment and self-development of the sixties found spiritual sanctification in both books, such values were cast as a spiritual imperative rather than self-obsessed narcissism. To someone brought up in a straitjacket of Catholic orthodoxy totally at odds with contemporary culture, The Prophet offered a

way of reconciling the two. By using Biblical cadences and style, Gibran's strictures had a patina of familiarity. It was a heady blend of Walt Whitman, 19th century romanticism and the New Testament.

Also important was that Gibran created a dogma-free religious zone which claimed to be universalist. The Prophet purported to be the essential teachings underlying all faiths. To millions, Gibran articulated a resolution of what is surely one of the most problematic issues for Christianity in the 20th century, its claim to exclusive truth. As our understanding of other religions — in particular, Buddhism and Hinduism — has increased and the global village has become a reality, the interchange between religions makes it harder to believe that salvation is only through Jesus Christ. The churches' insistence on clinging to this interpretation of the New Testament is seen by many as arrogant and intolerant.

So, I have some affection for The Prophet, and read the biography with horrified fascination. Waterfield charts Gibran's series of self-creations as Oriental mystic in Boston and New York, summing him up as "a consummate liar, abusive to [the woman who financially supported him], arrogant, narcissistic, mock-modest, self-indulgent and weak, with an inability to distinguish fantasy and reality". A pretty damning verdict. Gibran died of cirrhosis of the liver at 48, having failed to put much of what he preached into practice.

THE question is do Gibran's feet of clay undermine whatever merit The Prophet has? Gibran did not delude himself that he had lived his message. He said once that "I must live this or it is meaningless". His biographer, Robin Waterfield, is ambivalent about the question: "What if we learnt that Ezekiel had been a lecherous old man, would that undermine the Old Testament?" Waterfield thinks the real issue is authenticity. "Gibran was not a mystic. He did not have direct experience of being divinely inspired, nor did he have 30 years of solid meditative practice. A lot of his stuff is second hand. He

learned it from romantics like Whitman and is relaying it in accessible form."

That rather took the sheen off The Prophet when re-reading it after nearly 30 years. But I'm still uncertain whether it's right to line up the human being with the message. Gibran's case is analogous with that of Eric Gill, the sculptor over whom there was a rumour a few months ago when people argued that his work should not be in Westminster Cathedral because he had abused his daughters.

The Old Testament is full of bloodthirsty and highly-sexed personalities. Abraham sleeps with his wife's servant girl. There's plenty of incest, lechery and violence, but these men and women's insights into their relationships with God have been part of the inspiration for several thousand years of Judeo-Christian faith.

Or take the Prophet Muhammad as portrayed in Karen Armstrong's wonderful biography. A religious genius, who took more than the four wives he allotted his followers and led armies in sometimes savage wars. Does that inval-



date his teachings on justice and compassion? Of course not.

There is a curious late 20th century obsession with destroying reputations. Something almost patricidal as we metaphorically murder the figures who have framed our history and culture. Something akin to a witch-hunt about how we search out contradictions and weaknesses in people and seize upon them as evidence of hypocrisy. Finding out such things is a legitimate pursuit of knowledge, but it is done with a judgementalism which has echoes of bitter disillusionment.

Why should it be a surprise to discover that a public figure is as human as the rest of us — riddled with inconsistencies, delusions and often vices? What kind of policing of people's private lives have we instituted? (Pace Clinton.) It seems to speak to a bizarre vision of human beings as rational, consistent and measurable against some inhuman standard of perfection. We are all going to fall by that score so give us The Fall anytime — far more compassionate.

كلاوس الجبل

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Storm ahead for economy

Blame Gordon, not Ken

MERVYN King, the deputy governor of the Bank of England, is clearly not expecting to hold on to his job under a Conservative government. The Bank's former chief economist yesterday laid the blame for the current upward blip in inflation firmly at the door of previous government for not having put up rates last year.

Mr King may be right that a stitch in time would have taken the heat out of the economy and perhaps averted the need for the sharp slowdown that Threadneedle Street says is necessary to keep inflation on target. But it is too convenient for the newly independent Bank to use yesterday's politicians as scapegoats for slowing growth and rising inflation over the next few months.

Some of the Bank's critics accuse it of having sat on its hands, just like the previous Chancellor, when they should have aggressively raised rates. Dribbling rates up by quarter point steps from June to November last year only succeeded in leaving the markets expecting further hikes ahead which pushed up the value of the pound.

Despite complaints from industry, the Bank has been quite happy with sterling's strength. It is relying on a high pound to curb domestic inflation and squeeze the exporting sector so that the economy slows down. When manufacturers complain that they are losing orders from abroad, the Bank may claim to feel their pain, but Threadneedle Street takes it as a sign that policy is working. In fact the last time

starting slipped downwards in May, exporters' relief was short-lived: the Bank promptly put up at its next meeting.

Industry leaders and trade unionists who have been calling on the Chancellor to sack the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee and replace them with people in touch with the real economy are tilting at windmills. The MPC are merely obeying Mr Brown's instructions to get inflation down to the Government's 2.5 per cent target. The real problem is that the Bank has only one weapon in the fight against inflation, higher interest rates, and so most of the burden of the slowdown falls on manufacturing.

Mr King is unlikely to be as quick to finger the new Chancellor as the old, but it would have helped the Bank in its task if Mr Brown had taken a tougher stance on fiscal policy. Higher taxes could have helped take some of the steam out of consumer spending, still the force behind economic growth.

His colleague Stephen Byers claimed again yesterday that the rapid fall in the Government's deficit this year shows how tough the fiscal stance has been. But most of the improvement in the fiscal position has come about from unexpectedly booming tax receipts due to higher activity and the new system of self-assessment. Nigel Lawson made the same error back in the late 1980s, when he assumed that the public finances rapid swing into surplus was a permanent improvement and not the cyclical chimera it proved to be.

Had the Chancellor really wanted to batter down on the consumer sector, he should have raised taxes on spending. Having boxed themselves into a corner over income taxes, VAT and the ceiling on national insurance contributions, the Government was forced to take money from the corporate sector instead. Given that corporate balance sheets are now coming under con-

siderable pressure, with profitability falling and earnings growth sagging, this may turn out to be less of a wizard's wand than it seemed last July. Companies will react to these pressures in the only way they know how — by cutting costs. And that means jobs will be lost, perhaps in greater numbers than had taxes on consumers gone up instead. Most people would probably rather have few pence more on their taxes one way or another than a P45 in the post.

Video niceties

The target should be violence

JAMES FERRMAN, the nation's retiring film censor, certainly had the right philosophy: wherever possible his role was to classify, not to censor. Under his direction over the last quarter of a century, the British Board of Film Classification became the British Board of Film Censors. The proportion of films which suffered cuts fell from 33 to four per cent as public attitudes became more liberal. Videos (up to 4,000 a year) now account for 10 times as much work as film (up to 400). But in his end of term interview this week, he confessed that videos have been his biggest failure. Overtight and unworkable rules have led to an influx of illegal violent sex videos. He proposes a simple solution: a new wider category for sex (but not violent) films which could be regulated by the Board and free the police from their current role of surrogate censors.

The response from the moralists was predictable. The National Viewers and Listeners Association called for a new restrictive definition of "obscene" with more severe penalties for those found guilty. But that has already been tried in 1985 when Winston Churchill introduced a bill that

would have extended the existing 1959 Obscene Publications Act to radio and television. Even a Tory-dominated and Margaret Thatcher-led Parliament rejected the move because of the oppressive censorship it could have introduced.

Ferrman's approach makes sense. There is an important difference between violence and sex. Civilised societies should be searching for ways of reinforcing curbs on aggression, not egging it on. Just because researchers have found it difficult detecting links between violence and the media, it does not mean they are not there. Of course violence has complex causes — violent homes, violent communities, cultural traditions — but wise policy-makers should work on the common-sense assumption that the media plays its part. Sex is different so long as it is not violent or exploitative. Ferrman is right to push for a more liberal approach. There will be slippery-slope critics, who will ignore the purpose of the move and warn about immoral forces about to be unleashed. Nonsense. Informal social controls (family, school, church) have always been more successful than formal controls (police, courts, prison) in controlling behaviour. The chief police officers yesterday welcomed the proposed review of pornography legislation and conceded effective enforcement was difficult. Will Jack Straw please give the go-ahead?

End of the line

Women should inherit titles

LORD Numburnholme has died. He leaves no sons to succeed him, only four daughters. But he does have a brother, who becomes the 5th Baron. Had there been no male to inherit, the barony of Numburnholme would

have followed such hallowed houses as Breadalbane and Holland, Chesterfield and Stanhope, Newcastle and Stanhope into oblivion. Sixteen months short of the 21st century, do such aristocratic comings and goings matter? Oddly enough, they do. They matter because the system gives official endorsement to the principle, now largely discredited and discarded everywhere else, that women should be considered inherently inferior to men. Attempts have been made in the Lords to bring the rules for inheriting peerages into line with modern practice — not to mention with common sense. The former Labour minister Lord Diamond introduced a series of bills to ensure that the oldest child should inherit, regardless of gender. The Lords threw them out. What right, some hereditary members asked, had people like Diamond (a mere life peer) to try to deny their sons their legitimate expectations? Others feared that a change in the rules for inheriting peerages might encourage the inflammatory notion that daughters should have the same right as sons to inherit the throne. Yet that thought seems a lot less heretical now. The Queen herself had no objection to peers debating a bill introduced by Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare to alter the right of succession to give the sexes equality.

Any right of succession implies unfairness. Why should the elder child be preferred to the younger? But that is a tougher problem to resolve. The issue here is quite simple. Should the daughters of Lord Numburnholme be refused the succession because they are "merely" women? We ought to have reached the stage where such a proposition is not just rejected, but laughed at.

This government may feel it has troubles enough on its plate with the peerage already, but it still ought to eradicate this one.

Letters to the Editor

Pig transplants thin end of veg

DOCTORS and Lawyers for Responsible Medicine considers that the risks of pig-to-human organ transplants are so high that, if xenotransplantation goes ahead, a scheme of compensation for persons infected as a result should be established now. DLRM finds it contradictory that the UK authorities go to extreme lengths to protect the public from importing the rabies virus, while exposing that same public to an "unquantifiable" risk by transplanting unknown pig viruses into people. Dr André Menache, DLRM president, London.

In your article on Ted Hughes being awarded the Order of Merit (Pray accept this, Mr Hughes, August 11), you say this is given "to subjects who have advanced the arts, learning and literature". It is rather difficult to understand, therefore, why Baroness Thatcher's Award should appear among this august group since her governments were not exactly renowned for sympathy with the arts. D W Canning, Cardiff.

PRESUMABLY Baroness Thatcher qualified for having advanced the art of self-aggrandisement, learning related to self-justification and the literature of self-glorification. Peter Glattem, Richmond, Surrey.

GEORGE Howarth says a ban will stop people using new drugs. (Government ban on 36 designer drugs, August 12). In the same way that bans on heroin, cannabis and ecstasy have ended their use? Paul Flynn MP, House of Commons.

ON three separate pages of Monday's G2 I clocked a "K" and a brace of fuckings. I'm not sure I share your newfound enthusiasm, but if you insist on embracing this term can you at least dispense with the "K" and prudery and show some fucking consistency. Ken Enright, Bromley, Kent.

IS the Government's refusal to ban genetically modified food the thin end of the veg? Nicholas Pritchard, Southampton.

Sudan faces famine . . .

APPLAUD the publishing of the extraordinary photographs of war-torn Sudan (August 12) by Tom Stockard, one of Britain's finest photo-journalists. However, the comments of your leader writer (Sudanese horrors, August 12) that "we have not published the best photographs" is not a statement of editorial excellence but one of censorship and faint-heartedness. While your description of these images may have a certain effect, it is not the effect that the pictures themselves could achieve. Would you edit out the most poignant and harrowing paragraphs of one of your writer's reports and then paraphrase it on your leader page?

Photographs have a unique ability to convey the truth of a situation. They are not free from interpretation or individual viewpoint and undoubtedly we understand that a direct causal relationship exists between an event and a photograph; this gives it a special authority. Newspapers should understand, celebrate and use this special authority to inform and challenge its readers.

Photographs like this have in the past helped rally the public's conscience and this has made a difference; lives saved and regimes brought to heel.

You may not want to disturb your readers by publishing these photographs but taste is surely not an issue when so much more is at stake. We do not need a nanny shielding us

from real life, so publish and be damned. Neil Burgess, Director, Network Photographers, London.

THE agonising picture of the skeleton of a boy crawling after a local rich man who had just taken his bag of maize (Truce comes too late for unseen victims of Sudan's pitiless war, August 12) should have shown the face of the rich man so he could be publicly shamed. If it is true that we suffer from "compassion fatigue" such photographs would indeed jolt us out of our lethargy. Lyn Jones, London.

THE series of traumatic photographs taken by Tom Stockard at the Médicins Sans Frontières feeding station in southern Sudan were an outstanding piece of journalism. The images encapsulated the pitiless existence of these starving children. But slotted into the right corner of the Sudan page was a large Cable & Wireless advertisement featuring a large picture of a big, fat, white bloke looking a bit upset. He says: "I'm joining a gym." Laughed until my stomach ached. Patrick Gallagher, Somerset.

TO resolve Sudan's humanitarian crisis, we must properly know its causes, and Victoria Britain is disingenuous in laying all the blame on

Khartoum and international politics. The greatest cause of Sudan's crisis is that armed groups on all sides have a strong hold on the destiny of the country. The notion of a war between a brutal Arabised, Muslim North and a downtrodden black, Christian South is simply the shorthand of journalists and aid workers trying to raise funds.

The United Nations must accept part of the blame for allowing the famine to happen. It has always made the delivery of humanitarian aid conditional on the simultaneous approval of all the warring sides. Alison Hartley, London.

YOU are quite right about the need to draw people's attention to the crisis in the Sudan, and the current humanitarian crisis, itself (Sudanese horrors, August 12). The Government has been active in both respects. Since February, Clive Short, the Secretary of State for International Development, has provided more than £25 million in humanitarian assistance.

The Government has been active in both respects. Since February, Clive Short, the Secretary of State for International Development, has provided more than £25 million in humanitarian assistance. The aim is to help the relief effort to help the largest European contribution. At the same time, we have been active in trying to push forward talks on a peace settlement that can be the only long-term solution to the problems of the Sudan.

Derek Fatchett, Minister of State, Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

... but denies involvement in embassy bombings

YOUR accusations against Sudan (West sends the hand of Islamists behind outages, August 9), stereotyping attacks in both Nairobi and Dar es Salaam to be identified and brought to swift justice. But while the rest of the world waits for the results of the investigation into the bombings, your writer rushes to blame Sudan without any evidence.

Such bombings are very terrible crimes, but it is also terrible to accuse innocent people of being behind them without the evidence to support the claims. A Al-Korany, Press Counsellor, Sudan Embassy, London.

paper in which this was reported? The world is waiting for the perpetrators of the bombings in both Nairobi and Dar es Salaam to be identified and brought to swift justice. But while the rest of the world waits for the results of the investigation into the bombings, your writer rushes to blame Sudan without any evidence.

Such bombings are very terrible crimes, but it is also terrible to accuse innocent people of being behind them without the evidence to support the claims. A Al-Korany, Press Counsellor, Sudan Embassy, London.

ONCE again "mad Muslim fundamentalists" and their "Middle Eastern state terrorist backers" are blamed for a bombing outrage against the US.

The same happened after the Oklahoma City bombing. Indeed, television news journalists demanded explanations from puzzled Arab shopkeepers in the US about the supposed actions of their compatriots. There was even the ridiculous accusation against US-based black Muslims in the Nation of Islam.

The culprits turned out to be government-hating, right-wing, racist militia in the US. Simon Hinds, London.



Shayler speaks out from prison

YOUR leader (August 4) refers to me as a "loose cannon". In fact all my disclosures have been well-argued and in the public interest. For the record, I was selected as one of the founding members of the "xxx" section of the Labour Party for investigations into the Provisional IRA and other republican groups on the mainland from the Metropolitan Police in October 1992.

I was then posted to GSA where I was responsible for the Liaison Unit. I made my original disclosures, I tried to give my information about the Gafady plot to the Government as part of the evidence I offered to the parliamentary intelligence and Security Committee and, later, the Cabinet Office.

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review of the agencies. Both chose to ignore me. That these bodies should refuse shows clear contempt for open government and natural justice on their part. But the situation becomes more farcical with the Government's reaction when the evidence was placed in front of it. It allowed enough of the story to be published so it could deny it but suppressed the detailed evidence that supported my disclosures.

The most significant aspect to come out of the investigation was that MI6 did not seek ministerial approval for the operation. In other words, MI6 was operating out of control and illegally.

I did brief my direct boss in March about the Gafady plot as it took shape over a number of months. At least one other member of MI6 was briefed by MI6 directly. It is now up to these individuals to examine their consciences and decide whether they can go on the record in my support.

We must not allow MI6 or MI5 to silence them in any inquiry. I will gladly pass their names to anyone in Government who is prepared to interview them. I had a moral duty to disclose how British taxpayers' money was used in an attack which saw innocent civilians killed.

It is up to MPs and the media to lobby the Government to ensure there is an independent inquiry. In an open democracy like the US, there are independent bodies which deal with these kind of issues. David Shayler, Santé Prison, Paris.

Relative risk

THE statement in my article (Pinta pointer, August 12) that "the consumer is just as capable of making an assessment as the scientist" must have seemed peculiar to the director of an organisation whose existence depends on carefully researched information. It was unfortunately edited out of context.

What I argued was: the rapid changes of technology and the information revolution is putting strains on the old system of risk assessment. The debate about genetically modified foods is not "do they or do they not cause harm" but the inability to quantify risk on any reasonably scientific basis. In this context the consumer is just as capable of making an assessment as the

scientist. Nor are governments able to keep potential problems secret. Withholding information created havoc with BSE and a crisis of confidence in regulation which has yet to be abated. Sheila McKechnie, Director, Consumers' Association, London.

HATS off to Sheila McKechnie for saying the media can be at least partly responsible for "making sensible risk assessment virtually impossible". She might like to consider last month's Which? which has a four-page rant on investment charges and performance, which fails to mention relative risk even once. Which? is produced by... the Consumers' Association. Jeff Wagland, British American Financial Services, London.

Soft saddles are sore point with cyclists

YOUR article (Ride of your life, G2, August 11) assumes that the saddle is designed to support the rider in the area of soft tissue; this is a common misconception. It is designed to be sat on at the rear, broader area, which supports the bones that can be felt through the bottom. Too much padding in the saddle will cause riders to pedal "bow-legged" and cause chafing on the inner thighs. The recommendation of the article — to use "wider, softer... old-fashioned Fitties-style" saddles — is incorrect. For comfortable cycling, a

quality pair of cycling shorts and a saddle that supports well are all that is required.

The "infertile cyclist" debate has existed for years and the greatest cyclists in the world, riding 100-150 miles a day, and on what some call "razor-blade saddles", go on to make healthy families. Tom Whitehead, On Yer Bike, Blackburn.

IN REGARD to John Ilman's article concerning impotence and penis numbness connected with bicycle saddles, many years of cycling

has taught me to fit the saddle with the "nose" at the front angled downwards. The saddle should be raised so that, when cycling, the legs are almost straight on the downward stroke. Brooks Cycle Saddles of Nottingham make excellent saddles, but they need to be "broken in".

Fitting soft saddles usually results in excessive soreness. To eliminate this, many cyclists use heavily padded knee length shorts, which, in turn, may result in overheating of the genitals, bringing its own problems.

Many miles of safe and comfortable cycling may be enjoyed by wearing only cotton shorts. Alan Page, Rochester, Kent.

ALL postmen once had two things in common: a bicycle and an unusually large family. The bicycle became to be regarded as a fertility symbol. James Hogan, London.

WILL we be seeing a Viagra team in next year's drug-free Tour de France? Tony Dockerill, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

'I did brief my direct boss in MI5 about the Gafady plot as it took shape'

David Shayler, Letters

Old parliamentary hands raise dust over Millbank tendency

PAUL Richards's claim (Letters, August 12) that the centre-left Grassroots Alliance is "part of hard-left and Trotskyist groups" is absurd. The Alliance has already built up a huge amount of respect for its breadth and commitment to democratic socialist principles, including one member, one vote. This coalition of the traditional left and "lefties" right was a key factor in my election to the NEC last year, when party members laid down a marker against the control freaks of the Millbank tendency.

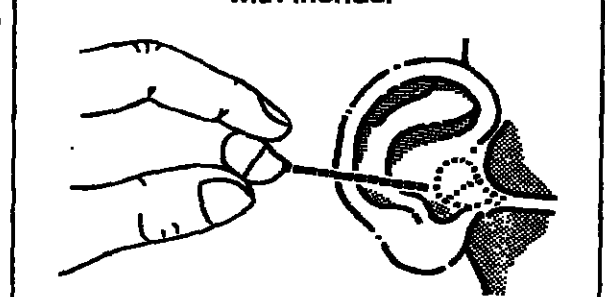
If Millbank had learned the lessons of that election it would have resigned in the spin-doctor and lobbyists whose activities the party membership is so concerned about. Unfortunately the rival Millbank-backed NEC slate ran into trouble at its launch when it was revealed that one of its key organisers was Ben Lucas, a leading member of the conspiratorial Labour Co-ordinating

Committee, who was named in the "cash for access" affair. British politics as a whole would benefit from an NEC able to articulate a constructive but independent voice. Ken Livingstone MP, House of Commons.

THE Blairites attempting to cover themselves in glory for the 1997 election result remind me of the 17th-century proverb about "the ally on the wheel who imagines he has raised the dust". Labour would have won the 1997 election under any leadership, as they would have lost the 1983 and 1987 elections under any leadership. It is only in 1992 that different leadership might have produced a different result. Labour should remember the advice of Clem Attlee: "They don't put us in because they like us, they put us in because they hate the other chap." Earl Russell, House of Lords.

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Tom Mendenhall

Passionate for rowing

TOM Mendenhall, who has died aged 83, had packed in several lifetimes by the time I met him in 1979. He had just retired after 20 years as president of Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. Before that he had been a history professor at Yale for 22 years, a Rhodes scholar at Oxford University, and captain of boats at Balliol College. Rowing brought us together because I was urged to seek him out when I embarked on a history of Henley Regatta. Mendenhall, besides knowing the origins of rowing in America, was passionate about it.

So our friendship took off over lunch in his Boston club. It was to continue at regattas in America, at the Dutch farmhouse hideout on Martha's Vineyard which he shared with his wife Nell, by occasional correspondence and by a couple of memorable visits to Henley. During the last of these, Mendenhall, physically huge and not delicate on his feet, spent most of the regatta's five days drinking tea in what was then romantically called the crews' "amenities tent". He was in seventh heaven, declaring that he had met just about everyone he had ever known in England and a lot of new faces besides.

Mendenhall was the son of a University of Wisconsin physicist and a paediatrician and raised in Madison. He attended Andover College and Yale University, graduating

in 1932 and then going on to Balliol. His teaching at Yale began in 1937. I imagine Mendenhall as the kind of academic who taught by osmosis. Just being in his company stretched your education. In pre-war Oxford he became an anglophile and an expert on Shrewsbury drapers and the 16th and 17th century Welsh cloth trade. His specialities also included early European history and the quest for authority in Europe. He wrote *A Short History of American Rowing* which made one drool for the long one, and his Jewish history *The Harvard-Yale Boat Race 1859-1924* was subtitled "and the coming of sport to the American College".

To sit in class with Mendenhall must have been an inspiration, for he had many passions combined with energy which enabled him to cover a lot of ground in a day. A journey with him was a joy because he engaged people with charm and humour. He was also a professor *par excellence* of the untidy study.

At the rambling book-lined house on the Vineyard, Tom's study-cum-den was a corner groaning with books, magazines, typescripts, photos, cartoons and an eccentric black and white television set for attempting to pick up baseball games. During their broadcasts speech was banned. Around the study were tomes

from Tom's student days at Yale, education theory books, and around the house were literary reviews, *Guardian* Weeklies and New Yorkers. Newspapers and magazines thudded daily into the mail box, half a mile across the woods. Walking the other way, the track led down through woods to a seashore nature reserve and Nantuxet Sound. There Tom sailed his sloop, crewed on occasions by other friendly rowing historians from Henley.

He had a generous intellect and a generous humour. He rejoiced in things like the English seaside postcard, and while not well known in Britain, among rowing circles his writings are a legend. He wrote a marvellous series of profiles of coaches during the 1970s, most of them published by the *Oarsman* magazine. These will become Tom's legacy, for plans are advanced to collect them together in a volume which will, in effect, be the long history of American rowing. They deserve a much better title than that, for Mendenhall captured the character and charisma of frontiersmen in sport, and in some cases frontiersmen in American society. It will be a bigger book than his subject, just as his author was greater than his parts. His wife Cornelia — Nell — two daughters and two grandchildren survive him.

Christopher Dodd

Thomas Corwin Mendenhall, historian, born June 1, 1910; died July 18, 1998



Tom Mendenhall... historian of American rowing

PHOTOGRAPH: CATHERINE SHAKESPEARE LANE

Norman Tebble

Two careers of a museum zoologist

NORMAN Tebble, who has died aged 73, had two distinct careers and achieved eminence in both. For about 20 years he was a zoologist working in museums but specialising in fields of research where he had little contact with the general public. His second career, as director of the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh, took him into the public domain running the largest comprehensive museum in Europe. (In 1985 the name was changed to the Royal Museum of Scotland, one of the National Museums of Scotland.)

Norman Tebble was born at East Sleekburn in Northumberland and educated at Bedlington secondary school. He went to St Andrews University on an Air Ministry university short course which led, in 1943, to service in the RAF. He qualified as a pilot in Canada and saw service in India and Burma. After the war he returned to St Andrews to complete his degree in zoology.

Having become deeply in-

terested in zoological taxonomy (the science of classification as applied to living organisms), Tebble joined the staff of the zoology department at the British Museum (Natural History), taking charge of various groups of invertebrates and working particularly on marine worms (polychaetes). In 1961 he took charge of the museum's very extensive collection of molluscs. Of his many publications, the most generally accessible was *British Shellfishes* (1969), which became widely used by biologists.

For his scientific work he was awarded a DSc by St Andrews University in 1968. During his early years at the British Museum (Natural History) he met and, in 1964, married Mary Olivia Archer. In 1968, Tebble moved to Oxford University as lecturer in zoology and curator of zoological collections. The following year he was appointed as curator of the Oxford University Museum where he set about improving the displays.

The Royal Scottish Museum



Tebble... boosted museum attendance figures

was seeking a new director in 1971 and the appointment of Tebble came as something of a surprise. But he soon set about running the museum with an iron hand. The director at this time was directly responsible to the Scottish

Office — with no Board of Trustees, and funding more readily available than in later years.

Tebble's first priority was to improve exhibition and educational services "so that our assets be most abundantly enjoyed". His staff had a difficult time but things did get done. Tebble pushed hard with a rolling programme of refurbished galleries and temporary exhibitions. This bore fruit and attendance figures for 1979 were the second highest in the museum's history. He was also supportive of other projects if they helped to preserve Scotland's heritage in the widest sense. He accepted the gift of a costume collection together with a country house and founded the Shambellie House Museum of Costume at New Abbey near Dumfries.

He was offered the small country house at Bigger, and although he would have liked to accept it, the authorities deemed that it should be taken over as a scheduled monument — but the museum took over responsibility for display and presentation. When British Rail were considering withdrawing their services across the Forth Bridge, he announced that the museum would take it over — fortunately, this offer did not have to be taken up.

As a former pilot, Tebble was keenly aware that all the national aircraft collections were in the south of England. The Royal Scottish Museum had a Supermarine Spitfire in store at a disused airfield in East Lothian. From this humble beginning Tebble helped set up the Museum of Flight at East Fortune. The collection now consists of some 50 aircraft, ranging from the diminutive V2 Autogiro to a "Vulcan" bomber and Blue Streak rocket.

Norman Tebble, zoologist, born August 17, 1924; died July 23, 1998

Bill Megarry

Making films in the golden era

BILL Megarry, who has died aged 90, was an outstanding film editor. Working with the likes of Ivor Montagu, Lindsay Anderson and Humphrey Jennings and Walter Lassally in the golden era of British documentary. In the 1930s he was also prominent in the Kino group of left-wing film workers. Thus for some years he made a meagre but fulfilling living touring Britain with radical films for public meetings. Kino was

active in the "British Aid to Spain" campaign during the Spanish Civil War. Born in Northern Ireland, Bill moved to London in 1933. His aim was to make films — and escape from bigotry and provincialism. He lived around Bloomsbury, meeting creative people, including many refugees from Nazi Germany, and central Europe. Appalled by the poverty, social injustice and unemployment of the interwar

period Megarry joined the Communist Party, which he was to leave in the 1950s. In 1935, he met and later married Peggy Harris, who had been born and brought up in Standon, in northern China. In 1939, Bill joined the ambulance service, working through the Blitz. In 1941, he returned to full-time film making as an editor with the Soviet Film Agency, where he worked with Ivor Montagu. He made films by day but by

night he was both an air raid warden and ambulance worker. He was himself bombed-out in November 1944 with his young family. After the war, Bill worked with Richard Massingham on short — and extremely funny — government films. He then worked at Basic Films with Basil Wright. In 1947, he edited Humphrey Jennings' *Dim Little Island* — with music by Ralph Vaughan Williams. From 1955-73 Bill was an editor with the Film Producers Guild, first at Merton Park Studios in south London, later in St Martin's Lane in the West End.

I first met him in 1961, when assigned to be his assistant. During that apprenticeship I learnt a great deal of the craft of film editing — and we became close friends. Bill was a lifelong member — and sometime shop steward — of the film union ACTU (now BECTU). In retirement, Bill flourished. He became a potter in his late sixties and for more than 20 years produced his own distinctive style of pottery — which he exhibited. Classified as blind eight years ago he remained physically active and independent until very recently.

Bill Megarry's overriding belief was that the world could be explained, understood and improved for common benefit. He is survived by Peggy, his son Tim and two grandchildren Katy and Matty.

Death-Tax Mailing

Bill Megarry, film editor, born January 23, 1908; died July 19, 1998



Bill Megarry... he was prominent in the Kino group of left-wing film workers

'Doc' O'Connor

Sound scholar

PHONETICS is a subject that if poorly taught can seem austere and difficult. "Doc" O'Connor, who has died aged 78, was a phonetician whose lectures were witty and effortlessly informative, and whose writing was elegant and readable. Generations of students continue to be grateful to his text-books — particularly his Penguin *Phonetics* and, for students of English as a second language, his *Better English Pronunciation*. He grew up in Harrogate, where his father was at one time mayor, and went to University College, London, in 1937 to read French. Having gained a First, he joined the Royal Artillery, rising by the end of the war to the rank of Major. But he had made such an impression on those who taught him French phonetics that in 1945 Daniel Jones, the founder and head of the Department of Phonetics at UCL, succeeded in arranging his early demobilisation and appointed him to the teaching staff.

Where Jones was shy and austere, O'Connor and his contemporaries (of whom the most notable was A C Gimson) formed a group of colleagues very much at ease with one another and with their students. They set the tone for much of British phonetics in the period 1950-1980, deftly leaving Jones's magisterial formulations with influences from the structuralist linguistics that was then all the rage in the US.

Doc's lasting scholarly contribution is likely to be in the study of English intonation. This is a topic always in dan-

ger of being rendered seriously boring by experimental phoneticians who take precise measurements of the frequency of the voice but fail to extract insightful linguistic generalisations from their findings. Descriptions of this kind also offer nothing for the student of English as a foreign language (EFL) to latch onto. Many people in the 1950s were struggling towards a linguistic codification of English intonation, but it was Doc — with his colleague Gordon Arnold — who first succeeded in formulating a description that made sense to the language learner while remaining substantially true to the facts. No less importantly, they devised a notation system that was elegantly iconic and concise. Their *Intonation of Colloquial English* (1961) has now scandalously been allowed to go out of print (except in a Japanese adaptation); but no better textbook has been published that could supersede it.

Doc remained on the phonetics staff at UCL throughout the rest of his career, smartly accepting early retirement in 1980 in order to avoid having to become head of department. For the rest of his life he devoted himself principally to his Ickenham Cricket Club, where at one time or another he filled every post from washer-up to president.

J C Wells

Joseph Desmond O'Connor, phonetician, born December 10, 1918; died July 15, 1998

Dorothea Garnons Williams

A welcome in the forest

DOROTHEA Garnons Williams, who has died of cancer aged 73, helped open Wales's forests and reservoirs to the public. She was a practical visionary, a woman who believed in treating human beings and the environment with respect, and could easily relate to people — whether academics or irate Welsh farmers.

The daughter of a general, she spent three childhood years in Hong Kong, attended Overstone School and would probably have gone on to art school had the war not ended her studies. She became a Wren, processing radio intercepts as part of the Enigma deciphering operation. In 1948 she married a serving army officer, Major Duncan Raikes. The couple's 12 years gave Garnons Williams little time to put her ideas into practice. In 1960 Duncan left the army. They settled at Treberfydd, in Wales.

Dorothea joined the Council for the Protection of Rural Wales and it became a life-long commitment. She was active in the Brecknock CPRW branch and became the council's national vice president in 1968 and chairwoman from 1980 to 1994. She was particularly concerned about the pressures which threaten the quality of life in Welsh farms and villages.

She was active in the Mothers' Union — which led to a lifelong interest in adoption, for which she worked in close co-operation with the Church. Membership of the Women's Institute led to involvement with its London-based national federation in London, promoting public access and recreation in open spaces.

A justice of the peace at 38, in 1974 she joined the board of the new Welsh Water Authority with responsibility for conservation, recreation and public access policies. She helped persuade the WWA to open its reservoirs to the public. In 1981 she became a Countryside Commissioner, and two years later became vice-chairman of its Committee for Wales. In 1989 she joined the Prince of Wales Foundation and derived par-

ticular pleasure from the regeneration of derelict industrial areas — and chaired the Merthyr Groundwork Trust. Also in 1989, dismayed by the way open hillside was being covered in conifers, she was appointed to the Regional Forestry Advisory Committee. On that body too she successfully campaigned for forests to be made more accessible.

With an immaculate garden to maintain — they were pioneers in organic farming — and a young family to be brought up, Duncan and Dorothea remained the most generous of hosts, making Treberfydd available for charity events. Visitors were



Williams... campaigner

likely to find young offenders on Boy Scout's camping under the beech trees and a pony club enjoying itself in the park, or to be presented with a basket and asked to pick raspberries.

She was awarded an OBE in 1982. Towards the end of her life she was very pleased to receive CPRW's Rural Wales Award.

Duncan died in 1984. In 1980 Dorothea married Lt-Colonel David Garnons Williams, who shared and supported her interests, and nursed her. She is survived by him, and her son and two daughters from her first marriage.

Roger Raikes

Dorothea Garnons Williams, farmer and environmentalist, born January 2, 1925; died July 24, 1998

A Country Diary

AMAT FOREST: In the 1960s a survey of this old Caledonian pinewood in Sutherland revealed that red squirrels and capercaillie were present. There have been no confirmed recent sightings of the squirrels, which are believed to have become extinct in the Highlands in the 18th century. Re-introductions, such as at Beaufort Castle near Inverness in 1944, proved so successful that they were soon widespread and doing enormous damage to woodlands. In 1983 the Highland Squirrel Club was formed. In the next 15 years 60,450 red squirrels were killed, with a bounty worth three to four

pence for each tail. The recent disappearance at Amat Forest is more likely to be because of a more general decline in the Highlands through loss and fragmentation of habitat. The capercaillie became extinct in the 18th century, probably because of extensive fellings of pine-woods. They were re-introduced in the 19th century and spread quickly, and although present in Amat Forest in the 1960s there are no recent records. However in the forest now there are pine martens and wildcats, together with the native roe deer and red deer, plus the introduced sika deer. RAY COLLIER

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

AN article on milk contamination (page 4, yesterday) referred to tests for "mycobacterium tuberculosis" in milk. This should be mycobacterium paratuberculosis. Mycobacterium tuberculosis is the cause of human TB.

KEN GRANSDEN, poet, critic and scholar (obituary page 14, August 11) remained emeritus until his death and not, of course, his retirement.

VISITORS to Westminster Abbey are charged an entrance fee. A chart listing Britain's most popular tourist

attractions (page 18, August 10) wrongly indicated that admission was free.

EVELYN MARTIN (Birthdays, this page, yesterday) is no longer co-chair of the Women's National Commission. Valerie Evans now heads the organisation.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Guardian's Editor by telephone 0171 235 5589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Letters to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 115 Farringdon Road, London, EC1R 3EE. Fax: 0171 235 5597. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

Birthdays

Shelia Armstrong, soprano, 56; Prof Hilde Behrend, economist, 81; Dr Fidel Castro, president of Cuba, 72; Father Leo Chamberlain, headmaster, Ampleforth College, 58; Domenico Dolce, fashion designer, 40; Roy Evans, general secretary, Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, 67; Kathy Gale, publisher, the Woman's Press, 36; Marie Helvin, model, deputy chair, Aids Crisis Trust, 46; Madhur Jaffrey, actress and cookery writer, 65; Susan Jameson, actress, 65; Tony Jarrett, athlete, 30; Sir Thomas Legg QC, permanent secretary, Lord Chamberlain's Department, 63; Bernard Manning, comedian, 67; Mark Pypers, headmaster, Gordonstoun School, 51; Lord Sainsbury, joint-president, J Sainsbury plc, 98; Dr Frederick Sanger OM, CH, biochemist, 90; Alan Shearer, footballer, 28; George Shearing, pianist, 78; Tomasz Staszewski, fashion designer, 37.

Death Notices

NEPHEW, George Bristow, Curator of Great Oke, On August 11 1998 he passed away peacefully at his home, aged 83 years, the beloved husband of the late Mrs Bristow. George was a devoted family man and a member of the Church of England. He was predeceased by his wife and is survived by his sons Eric and David, his daughter Sarah and his many friends and colleagues. Burial will take place at St Mary's Church, Chesham, on Saturday August 15 at 10.30am. Friends are invited to a service at 11.00am at St Mary's Church, Chesham, on Sunday August 16 at 11.00am. Tel: 01895 451111.

Richardson, Andrew John, August 10th 1998. Andrew was born in Dublin, Ireland, and was a member of the Irish Republican Army. He was a devoted family man and a member of the Church of England. He was predeceased by his wife and is survived by his sons Eric and David, his daughter Sarah and his many friends and colleagues. Burial will take place at St Mary's Church, Chesham, on Saturday August 15 at 10.30am. Friends are invited to a service at 11.00am at St Mary's Church, Chesham, on Sunday August 16 at 11.00am. Tel: 01895 451111.

In Memoriam

HOWARD, David, died 12th August 1998. He was a devoted family man and a member of the Church of England. He was predeceased by his wife and is survived by his sons Eric and David, his daughter Sarah and his many friends and colleagues. Burial will take place at St Mary's Church, Chesham, on Saturday August 15 at 10.30am. Friends are invited to a service at 11.00am at St Mary's Church, Chesham, on Sunday August 16 at 11.00am. Tel: 01895 451111.

Analysis Women and football

The conventional wisdom is that Britain is not headed for a slump... the conventional wisdom has a nasty habit of turning out wrong
8

A game of two sexes

After Heysel and Hillsborough football needed a softer, more civilised image (see picture). It's acquired it, says **Jane Crinnion**: growing numbers are watching and many more are playing



FOOTBALL, the game of two halves, is starting to acquire the other half. As the new season kicks off in England more women will be sitting in the stands, watching the box, following the form than ever before. As a spectator sport football is being feminised. Since the bleak and troubled seasons of the 1970s and 80s, when total match attendance declined, football's recovery has been strongly aided by its growing appeal to women. A man's game, still, both on and off the field, its character is bound to be affected by its changing gender balance.

Women's presence is partly the result of conscious policy. Following the disaster at the Heysel stadium in Brussels in 1985 the British government prompted clubs to introduce family areas and new membership schemes⁽¹⁾. More women on the terraces would, it was hoped, undermine the hooligan and have a "civilising" effect on the crowds. But it took the deaths at Hillsborough in Sheffield in 1989 to force a significant change in conditions at the grounds. The report commissioned by the government from Mr Justice Taylor was a turning point. The terraces on which thousands of fans had happily stood male armpit-to-armpit season upon season exuding testosterone were to be replaced with sedate seating; facilities were to get a much-needed makeover. The football experience was to be made attractive and accessible to those who had been excluded — the disabled, the elderly, children and women⁽²⁾.

These post-Taylor improvements are by no means yet all in place but grounds are different and the atmosphere at games is now much less adult male and intimidating. More people from football's excluded are now present (with the exception of the disabled, something highlighted in the recent report of David Mellor's Football Task Force). Women now make up about one in eight of all spectators at Premier League matches as opposed to one in 50 at First Division matches 30 years ago. They are regulars, too. As the graphic shows they are significantly represented amongst season ticket holders, particularly at smaller provincial clubs.

It is not just the cleaner, safer image of football that is attracting more women. According to Donna Woodhouse of Leicester University's Sir Norman Chester Football Research Centre "it was just a question of seeing and nicer toilets, we wouldn't be seeing more women at games". Women

have been attending matches since the sport began. Their numbers are up because the game is more entertaining. As she puts it, "more big name, overseas players, more television coverage and better promoted tournaments such as Euro '96 and the World Cup". The European Championship in 1996 in England did its bit. England played well on home turf, support took on an almost religious fervour and many women wanted to take part. Even those passionately opposed to the almost suffocating presence of the game on television found themselves caught up in the frenzy. England's participation in the World Cup this summer has stoked further female interest and support.

One reason for women's increased interest is the merging of football with comedy, fashion and music, other "feminised" aspects of popular culture. Skinner and Baddiel frequently had women on *Fantasy Football*, speaking knowledgeably about the sport. There are women's fanzines. Mainstream women's magazines now run football articles. Girls and women wear team shirts to the pub. The celebrity pairings of Posh Spice and David Beckham, and Louise and Jamie Redknapp have made football more glamorous and voguish, heightening its appeal to a wider cross-section of society. It's not only young women following the glory game. Of all new women fans attending Premier League matches, 38 per cent are over 30 years of age. Advertisers too have not failed to see the game's cross-gender value. Alan Shearer is cleverly portrayed as the family man buying burgers from McDonalds for his children, and David Galloway, the housewives' favourite, endorses the same L'Oréal shampoo as Kate Moss and Jennifer Aniston. Both campaigns are a far cry from the gender-specific ads of the late 1970s when Kevin Keegan exhorted men to wear Brut aftershave (another of his questionable preferences).

THE reasons for all this are obscure. Some women first attend matches out of curiosity — evidence that women follow teams "genetically" because of family tradition is limited. Few women fans have ever played the game. Some may be drawn as much by the behaviour of the crowds as the game itself. Addiction follows — women appear to be more loyal than men, if the proportion of women fans who are season ticket holders is any guide. Like men, women get attached

to favourites. Perhaps football's attractions as a sport are genderless, its rhythms, its balance of skills, its mixture of individual and collective endeavour, muscle and mind. If football has sex appeal, it's not clear why it offers any more than more obviously masculine sports such as boxing or rugby, where women's interest appears static.

Whether or not women's interest in football will carry into their playing the game or wanting to watch other women playing is not so obvious. Football played by women is growing at an unprecedented rate (see graphic), and this time the Football Association is outside. In 1991, a year after the Dick Kerr Ladies' team drew a crowd of 58,000,

the FA banned women from playing on Football League affiliated grounds and deemed the game to be "quite unsuitable for ladies and not to be encouraged"⁽³⁾. The ban was not lifted until almost 50 years later, and it is only within the last 10 years or so that the women's game has been given any recognition or credibility by the FA.

Within the last decade the Women's National League has been launched, with a total of 30 teams in its Premier, Northern and Southern Divisions. The FA has rescinded Rule 37, which until 1991 prohibited mixed football in schools for the under-15s and five years ago assimilation of the Women's League into all existing departments at the FA ensured the

game could benefit from full access to its resources and expertise. A women's football co-ordinator, now Kelly Simmons, was recruited to oversee all aspects of the women's game, including the overseas premier league, international games and the new excellence and development programmes. As the women's game has evolved, so too has the infrastructure. The FA wants to increase local playing opportunities, for example through a youth league, allowing girls to progress to the adult women's game and the England youth and senior teams. "Whether you are a young girl who wants to play for fun, or whether you really want to aim for the top of your sport and play for England, the structures are going to

be in place," says Kelly Simmons. In the near future, the women's game will come to resemble the same pyramid or organisation as the men's. The FA is keen to encourage more women coaches. At present a thousand women attend its level one junior team manager/teacher course and 300 are pursuing the coaching certificate. More women managers are needed and a coaches' mentoring scheme has been introduced, offering support and scholarships to women who want to climb the ladder.

Media interest in women's football is limited, although last season the Express ran a weekly page and the broadsheets do cover the bigger games. Reports now concentrate on whether a player had

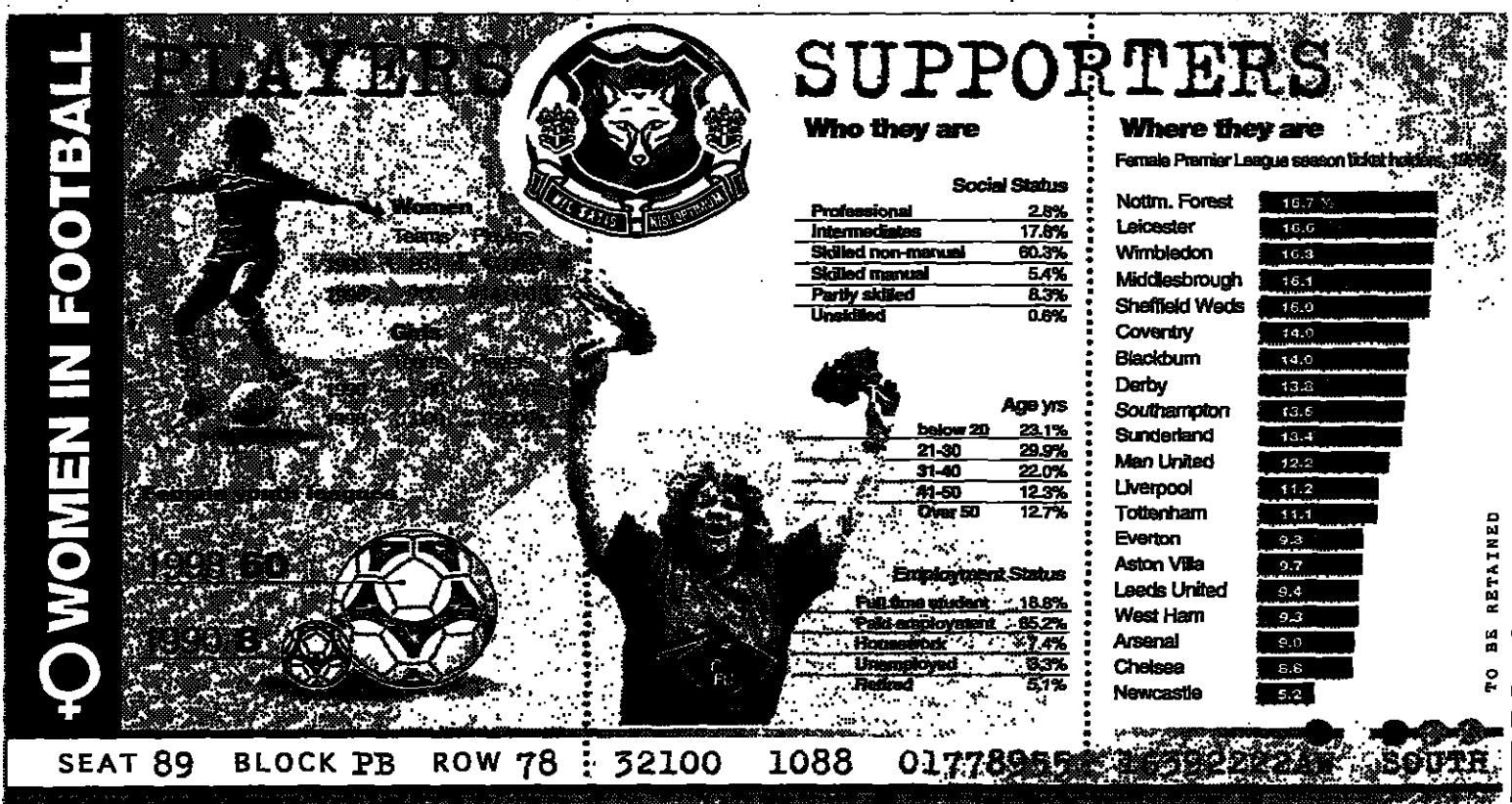
a good game at the back and not, as once, on her marital status or appearance⁽⁵⁾. Television coverage remains limited. Some of the bigger matches are shown on Sky but the women's game is rarely discussed on Football Focus or Match of the Day and certainly the BBC has no plans to show any women's games this season. ITV's *On the Ball* though, a new series scheduled for the autumn and co-hosted by Gabby Yorath, will be keeping an eye on the women's game throughout the season.

The media are reticent because the fans are missing. The recent women's World Cup qualifying game between England and Germany — if played between men it would have

filled Wembley — attracted only 5,000 spectators to the Den. The gender dimensions of the crowds at least are positive. Spectators at women's games include just as many men as women and they are not all partners or relatives. It's Catch 22: coverage and thus awareness won't increase while terraces are bare and vice versa. Is it conceivable that over time the women's game could come to be as respected as the men's? It may be only a matter of time until stars in the women's game such as Hope Powell and Marianne Spacey become household names in the way Alan Shearer and Michael Owen are today.

WHAT'S beyond question is that women are in football, in popular imagery at least. Sporty Spice has just modelled the new Liverpool kit. Nicky of Eastenders is frequently cast playing football with Martin Fowler, in a new BBC corporate advertisement, a young girl is seen decked out in a Chelsea strip kicking a ball in the air, in one recent fashion show, a young girl looks daggers at her mother as she has to trade her football boots for a pair of Calvin Klein sandals. Such images will work their way into public consciousness. According to FIFA's new president Sepp Blatter, "the future is definitely female".

Sources: (1) Sir Norman Chester Centre for Football Research, Leicester University, Factsheet S: A History of Female Football Fans, <http://www.le.ac.uk/snccfr/>; (2) The Hillsborough Stadium Disaster, Inquiry by Lord Justice Taylor, HMSO, 1990; (3) Premier League Fan Survey, Football Association, 1996; (4) The FA, Factsheet 3; (5) Women on the Ball: A Guide to Women's Football, Sue Lopez, Scarlet Press, 1997. Graphics: Glyn Walters. Jane Crinnion is a researcher for Analysis.



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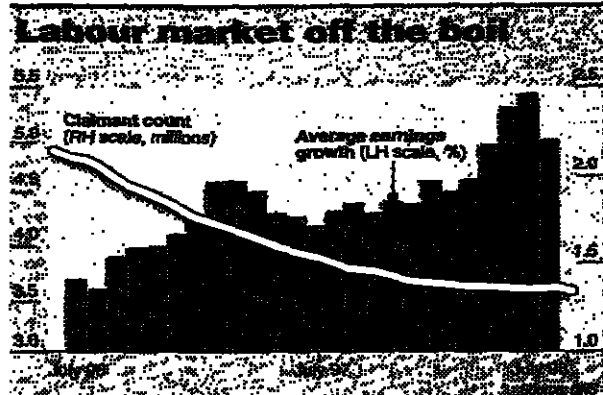
Wage inflation fears ease

Mark Atkinson
Economics Correspondent

GOVERNMENT and Bank of England fears of a surge in wage inflation eased yesterday as official figures showed a sharp fall in average earnings growth, despite an unexpected drop in unemployment.

The Bank welcomed the earnings data — which showed the annual rate of increase dipping to 5.0 per cent in May from 5.4 per cent a month earlier — as a step in the right direction. It mainly reflected spring bonus payments dropping out of the calculation.

But City analysts said the earnings figures were still incompatible with the Government's 2.5 per cent inflation target. They added that the Bank's monetary policy committee (MPC) was likely to be disturbed by possible inflationary implications of the continued fall in the jobless



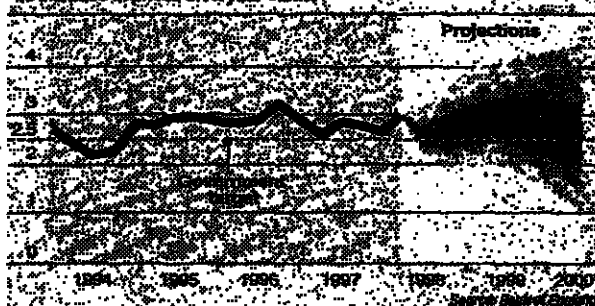
total. Both unemployment measures — the claimant count, which records the number of people out of work and claiming benefit, and the Labour Force Survey (LFS), which estimates how many people are actively seeking work — showed improvements. The claimant count fell by 26,000 in the month to 1,335,100, or 4.7 per cent of the workforce, and June's small

increase was revised to a 5,900 fall. Meanwhile, the LFS recorded a drop of 62,000 between April and June, taking it down to a record low of 1,802,000.

With the MPC concerned that unemployment is "below its natural rate" — the level at which wages begin to rise — analysts said that interest rates might still have to go up

Hitting the target

Inflation projection based on constant real interest rates. A 2% rise in the base rate is projected for a year earlier.



again to achieve what the committee sees as a necessary increase in the jobless total.

Richard Hey and Kevin Darlington, of Dutch bank ABN-AMRO, said the figures underlined their view that talk of rate cuts was "grossly premature". They pointed out that Mervyn King, one of the Bank's two deputy governors, had conspicuously refused to rule out a rate rise when pre-

siding yesterday's inflation report.

"Until there is clear evidence that the labour market has begun to loose, a tightening bias to the MPC's rate policy will remain, notwithstanding a slowing economy and the on-going pain of manufacturers," they said.

David Hillier, of Barclays Capital, however, said the drop in the claimant count

was exaggerated by an unexpected absence of students signing on the dole for the summer holidays.

"Unemployment has troughed and is likely to rise from now on — you only have to see how many companies are announcing redundancies," said Mr Hillier.

The Office for National Statistics, which publishes the labour market data, said its estimate was that unemployment was continuing on a downward trend of up to 10,000 a month.

In a reversal of previous trends, the ONS said that earnings growth had fallen in the private sector to 5.7 per cent from 6.2 per cent but risen in the public sector to 3.2 per cent from 2.3 per cent.

Alastair Hetherington, from pay specialists, Income Data Services, said after being held down for so long, public sector pay was likely to continue to drift upwards in the months ahead. This suggested that whole economy average earnings growth would remain around 5 per cent.

Notebook

Keynes takes us back to the future



Edited by
Mark Milner

BACK IN 1925 John Maynard Keynes wrote that the monetary policy was "the real source of our industrial troubles". The only truly satisfactory way out, he argued, was to "bring about a reversal of the trend".

However, Keynes did note that there were alternatives open to the authorities.

These included pursuing "the so-called 'sound' policy" vigorously, with the object of bringing about "the fundamental adjustments in the orthodox way by further restricting credit and raising the bank rate... if necessary, thus intensifying unemployment and using every other weapon in our hands to force down money wages, trusting in the belief that, when the process is finally complete, the cost of living will have fallen also."

These days there are those who would argue that monetary policy (and the consequent strength of sterling) is at the centre of our industrial troubles. They would find more than an echo of such "sound" policy in the minutes of the July meeting of the Bank of England's monetary policy committee, released yesterday.

The minutes record: "A rise in unemployment would be needed, in order to check earnings growth and return inflation to target."

Certainly the MPC shows little sign of reversing the current monetary stance, though at least it has not intensified it. With earnings growth moderating, even though unemployment again fell last month, the MPC may finally have taken its foot off the interest rate accelerator.

That can only be to the good. Keynes had a word or two to say about the impact of "sound" policy. "If this policy can be carried through it will be, in a sense, successful though it will leave much injustice behind it on account of the inequality of the changes it will effect, the stronger groups gaining at the expense of the weaker."

The Bank's deputy governor, Mervyn King, may have deplored the shortcomings of one Conservative Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, yesterday. The MPC would do worse than to reflect on Keynes' thoughts concerning the economic consequences of another, Winston Churchill. More than 70 years on they are just as relevant.

Sky's the limit

RUPERT Murdoch not only has a nose for an opportunity. He also has a gambler's readiness to spend heavily backing his instinct. The immediate challenge for Mr Murdoch's atten-

tion (and the resources at his disposal) is BSkyB, which is gearing up to invest a deal of money converting audiences to digital TV.

So far BSkyB has, in classic Murdoch fashion, been ready to use financial muscle to deal with competitive threats. Yesterday BSkyB chief executive Mark Booth was unabashed by the costs ahead.

The company is, for example, offering a free installation service to viewers, which will cost £16 million in the pre-Christmas selling period alone. It is also offering basic packages to subscribers at much lower prices than seemed likely just three months ago. Little wonder the company has been so keen to use its interactive joint venture, BT, as a vehicle for subsidising the costs of the set-top decoder boxes also needed by viewers.

The point at which Mr Murdoch starts to make money from digital is not easy to calculate. It will depend on several factors, including the number of viewers switching from analogue to digital, the number of new viewers recruited, how many opt for the basic package and how many want the upmarket service.

The sums look easier for rival ONdigital. Its owners, Carlton and Granada, reckon that their venture will break even with 1.7 million subscribers. For them the challenge will be, if not to match the Murdoch camp pound-for-pound in investment terms, then to be prepared to spend sufficiently heavily to carve out a satisfactory market share.

Given Mr Murdoch's traditional determination to make a success of his ventures, the battle will not be one for the faint-hearted. It is worth remembering that BSkyB resulted from a "merger" of the two analogue forerunners, Sky and BS — on Mr Murdoch's terms.

Clubbing together

SADLY but unsurprisingly, we are to lose another member from the thinning ranks of mutually owned organisations. Few can have expected the 12,000 full members of the RAC to reject the £450 million offer from the US group, Centand. After all, each of them stands to pick up £24,000.

In the event, only 32 voted against the deal. The sale still has a hurdle to clear. The Office of Fair Trading will clearly have a look at the implications as Centand owns Green Flag, the third force in the provision of breakdown services.

Assuming the deal does get the nod, however, the RAC's full members will face a challenge. They have been asked to contribute £200 each, less than 1 per cent of the money they will get from Centand — into a fund for the benefit of staff and members' widows, who would get around £5,000 each if everyone comes up with their contribution.

It would be pleasant to think that everyone would be prepared to share their windfall pay-off. It would also be a surprise.



Korean firm Halla's British workers continue to suffer from the Asian crisis at the £17m Merthyr Tydfil excavator plant where the already reduced workforce is being cut from 70 to 30. Opened by the Queen last year as the first Korean investment in Wales, it hoped to employ 300. JEFF MORGAN

'Jobs must go' to beat inflation

Larry Elliott
Economics Editor

HIGHER unemployment is the price Britain will have to pay for hitting the Government's 2.5 per cent inflation target, the Bank of England said yesterday.

Despite mounting concern over the recent rash of job losses in manufacturing, the Bank is arguing that more redundancies must follow to keep pay demands in check. The Bank believes that after

falling for the past five and a half years, the jobless total is now below the so-called natural rate, the level consistent with stable inflation.

It said that earnings growth had picked up over the past year, suggesting that "unemployment has reached a level likely to prove incompatible with price stability".

"As demand growth slows, unemployment is likely to rise, reducing cost pressures in the labour market."

Mervyn King, the Bank's deputy-governor, said it was impossible to be precise about

how far unemployment was below the natural rate.

Although many economists are deeply sceptical about the natural rate theory — believing that estimates of its level fluctuate in line with movements up and down in the jobless total — the Bank believes it is a crucial indicator.

Mr King said the news on earnings growth since the last inflation report in May had strengthened the MPC's belief that unemployment, at its lowest since 1980, was below its natural rate. "Hence earnings growth is expected to

continue to rise for a time, reflecting the tight labour market, before falling back as below-trend output growth leads to some rise in unemployment and a fall in earnings growth."

According to the Bank, the winter slowdown in the economy is likely to be more severe than it estimated three months ago. Mr King saw a one in eight chance of an outright recession next year, while the Inflation Report noted that the risks to output were "on the downside".

The report added: "These

risks, which reflect continuing concerns about the world economy and the speed of domestic demand moderation, imply corresponding downward risks to inflation."

"The overall balance of risks to inflation is on the upside, reflecting the possibility of a more rapid fall in the exchange rate, past money growth and a more marked acceleration of earnings."

The Bank said the minutes would also be examined fully in the August Inflation Report Round.

Platform 1 The gravy train

New boss welcomed aboard with £¼m bonus

David Gow

A £250,000 "golden hello" paid to the chief executive of train and bus operator Stagecoach yesterday fuelled the Treasury's campaign against excessive pay in Britain's boardrooms.

Mike Kinski, already given a £300,000 a year salary to lure him from the chair of Southern Water, was given the bonus three weeks after he started running Stagecoach on April 7. He is in line for further bonus payments worth £750,000 in the next five years under a long-term scheme due to be approved by shareholders next month.

News of his earnings power coincided with a fresh onslaught on the remuneration awarded to directors of privatised utilities from Stephen Byers, Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

A survey, carried out by Utilities Week magazine and



Mike Kinski gets bonuses plus a substantial salary

analysed by the Treasury, showed they earned an extra 18 per cent last year — exactly the same increase won in Britain's top 100 boardrooms, according to the Guardian's own exclusive survey.

Mr Kinski's "golden hello" was particularly galling to critics of the privatised transport network as he is now responsible for running South

West Trains, a by-word for late and cancelled services and for overcrowding last year — when it was fined £300,000 by regulators.

Jonathan Bray, director of Save Our Railways, said: "Commuters will see this as a sick joke. South West Trains is nowhere near offering the kind of service that would justify these bonuses. The gravy train rolls on."

But Stagecoach justified the bonus. "Our attitude is that in relation to peer groups within the FTSE 100 companies, it's not an enormous sum and to attract such a person this is pro-rata the sum that anyone would expect."

Mr Kinski's appointment, it was pointed out, came on January 27 and it was likely that the "golden hello" had been negotiated before then as part of his remuneration package. The company said it was aiming to improve service by investing £100 million to buy 30 new trains for SWT.

Platform 2 Further delays

Watchdog criticises rail companies for late trains

David Gow

PUNCTUALITY on Britain's privatised railways is "a major cause of passenger dissatisfaction with the standards of service mounting, says a report published today."

John O'Brien, director of the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising (Opfr), seized on the latest evidence of a deteriorating service to demand action from the 26 train operators to improve performance rapidly. Five, including Great Western and Thames Trains, have been asked to take urgent action.

In his latest quarterly bulletin, Mr O'Brien said punctuality had fallen on 48 of the routes operated by the train companies and improved on only 16. Passengers, he said, were "less than impressed". The train operators, while admitting the results were disappointing, claimed they

had over-ambitious plans to attract more passengers.

Giles Fearnley, deputy chairman of the Association of Train Operating Companies, said: "A major cause of the deterioration is a significant expansion of the network, with 7 per cent more passengers, 50,000 more trains, many new services, which has placed serious demands on rolling stock and staff resources and a network which has capacity and reliability constraints."

Mr O'Brien said: "Unfortunately, the unwanted side effect has been a detrimental effect on punctuality, and new and extra services are of little value if they cannot be relied upon."

Gerald Corbett, chief executive of Railtrack, which runs stations, tracks and signals, said it was up to the operating companies to improve performance. He said that in five of the last six months there had been fewer delays caused by

Railtrack and its contractors, a point conceded by Mr O'Brien. Railtrack, which cut delays by one per cent last year, is committed to a 7.5 per cent improvement this year.

Jonathan Bray, campaigns director of Save Our Railways, a pressure group, said: "The franchise director is right to get tough. But he should go further. It's time the worst offenders were given an official warning: 'Shape up, or lose your contract.'"

Even with the poor performance, Opfr paid out a net £3.3 million in the first quarter from April to June, as net punctuality payments to operators for performance exceeding the benchmarks set. This was, however, down from £7.3 million a year earlier.

Great Western, owned First Group and running services from London to Wales and the west country, paid £720,000 to Opfr in "fines" for late or cancelled trains during the quarter.

Platform 3 Dress code

'Snobs' jibe at Virgin ruling

David Gow

WITH his open-neck shirt, loafers and no tie, Richard Branson would not get upgraded to first-class on an overcrowded train run by his own company. He is not suitable.

That was the view yesterday of Jimmy Knapp, secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR), after seeing on a leaked memo from Virgin Trains to its senior conductors telling them they could upgrade those "who will fit best the first-class environment".

The implicit accusation of snobbery in Britain's coolest entrepreneur was one shared

by customers at Manchester's Piccadilly Station served by Virgin. One said: "The first-class carriages always seem to be empty anyway so more should be converted to second-class. It seems snobby."

Mr Knapp said conductors complained about getting a backlash from passengers left in overcrowded carriages when travelling from London to Euston to Birmingham or Liverpool. Conductors are advised to upgrade "suitable" passengers such as full standard-class ticket holders. For Mr Knapp, that means people wearing suits and carrying a Harrod's bag rather than those "in shorts, vests and sandals carrying Tesco's bags".

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.85	Germany 2.615	Malaysia 8.55	Singapore 2.75
Austria 13.75	Greece 458.05	Malta 0.22	South Africa 10.22
Belgium 58.10	Hong Kong 12.29	Netherlands 3.165	Spain 27.83
Canada 2.41	India 59.83	New Zealand 3.14	Sweden 12.92
Cyprus 0.525	Ireland 1.141	Norway 12.09	Switzerland 2.259
Denmark 10.89	Israel 6.01	Portugal 206.89	Turkey 422.650
Finland 0.64	Italy 2.793	Saudi Arabia 8.02	USA 1.526
France 6.41			

Supplied by NatWest (excluding rupee, shaker and milled)



Country pursuit... eventual winner Renown, wearing the white noseband, tracks Silver Groom round the first bend at Salisbury yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: JULIAN HERBERT/ALLSPORT

Xaar seeks Champion boost at Deauville

Chris Hawtkins

XAAR, the highest rated two-year-old since Arazzi but off the course this season since flopping in the 2,000 Guineas, could stay in training next year to give him a chance to fulfil the extravagant claims once made for this son of Zafonic.

More will be known after Saturday, when he runs in the Prix Guillaume d'Ornano over 10 furlongs at Deauville, where he will face a maximum of five rivals.

"Andre Fabre is very pleased with him at the moment and, if all goes well, he could then go for the Champion Stakes in Ireland and

At Goodwood last time

England," said Grant Pritchard-Gordon, racing manager to owner Khalid Abdulla, after the success of Xaar's three-parts sister Zante at Salisbury yesterday.

"His trainer has always said Xaar needs a mile and a quarter and may even stay a mile and a half. We haven't seen much of him and we want to see a lot more, which could mean he stays in training next year. Hopefully, he'll be as good as he was as a two-year-old.

Zante, the 5-6 favourite, was a virtual ally of the runner-up in the 10-furlong Upavou Stakes to land credence to the argument that the progeny of Zafonic are not just specialist milers.

Zante disappointed connections in the Nassau Stakes when the tactics of holding her up misfired. "We realised we made a mistake," explained Pritchard-Gordon. "The plan was to make much more use of her this time and Kieren Fallon took the job well."

Conjugating Latin verbs may be a piece of cake for Classics master Denis Caslon but he has a lot more difficulty backing winners and did not have a penny on his Renown, who won the Violet Applique Handicap, a hardy surprise as this was his first winner since 1978 and the first time he has ever seen his colours carried successfully.

"I had a horse with Guy

Rugby League

Ray of hope for Gateshead as Welsh rejected

Andy Wilson

THE Super League clubs yesterday reluctantly abandoned their hopes of awarding franchises next season to Swansea and Cardiff, although they are clinging to the possibility of expansion to Gateshead.

Chris Caisley, the chairman of Super League (Europe), and Maurice Lindsay, the managing director, each referred to problems in the "guaranteed capital" included in the three bids. Swansea and Cardiff have agreed to reapply next year for a franchise for 2000, while in Gateshead's case the decision was final: they have until Monday to come up with the necessary financial guarantees.

Kath Hetherington, the former Rugby Football League president who is working with the local council on Gateshead's bid, is confident they will do so. She added that the deferment of the rival Welsh bids would strengthen Gateshead's position by removing the competition to sign any available Australian players.

That will provide some consolation to the Super League clubs but everyone in the game will be disappointed that the latest attempt to take the sport to an increasingly receptive Welsh public is still-born.

"We are very disappointed not to have the Welsh clubs in," said Caisley. "We have been anticipating that at least one of them would be available to play after the encouragement we received in the Roadshow games.

But quite frankly neither

of their applications came up to what was required for us to give them a franchise. We have to get it right."

Lindsay added: "If they remedy the shortcomings in their bids we would certainly encourage them next year."

This encouragement is likely to include taking further Super League matches to South Wales, as well as Edinburgh and the Midlands.

The decision was the latest blow in a difficult week for Cardiff rugby union club, who had backed the application from the Welsh capital. But Peter Tunks, the former Australian Test prop who is advising them, said he was "far more comfortable" reapplying next year than rushing to the starting gate by March.

Neil McClure, the chairman of Silver Shield, the car windscreen company which was bid for Swansea, said he would have deferred entry for a year had the bid been accepted and insisted the set-back would not affect plans to redevelop a stadium on the outskirts of the city.

He was critical of the application process set up by the RFL and of Deloitte & Touche, the accountants commissioned to produce a financial report on each of the bidders.

"When Deloitte & Touche came to see me they did not have a copy of the whole application form," he said. "We only had an hour to talk about finance and then, when they asked for further information to be provided on Tuesday, after they had produced a report which we were not allowed to see, we were not given sufficient time to provide it."

Sport in brief

Tennis

Iva Majoli, the 1997 French Open champion from Croatia, will meet Martina Hingis, who also won the WTA event in Manhattan Beach, California, after beating Italy's Rita Grande 1-6, 6-2, 6-4. Hingis has not won a title or even reached a final since the Italian Open in May.

Swimming

Women competitors given steroids had suffered physical damage as a probable consequence, a medical expert testified yesterday in the trial of

six former East German sports officials accused of giving drugs to 19 women in the 1970s and 1980s. Horst Luebert, who examined 11 of the former swimmers, told a Berlin court that Luebert was also on the pill, had developed a liver tumour, two others had experienced liver complaints, five had suffered temporary voice-deepening and one had grown a beard.

Rowing

Plans for an Olympic-standard course in Reading have been dropped after residents protested about increased traffic. Steve Redgrave said it was "a disappointment for rowers of all ages and abilities".

Chepstow runners and riders

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3.00 Tasha Of Success	Tasha Of Success
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4.00 Sally Behaviour	Sally Behaviour
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5.00 Courage Under Fire	Courage Under Fire

Left-handed, undulating track of 2m with 11 of run-in. Straight mile. Going good to firm. 4-10 furlongs. 11-12 furlongs. 13-14 furlongs. 15-16 furlongs. 17-18 furlongs. 19-20 furlongs. 21-22 furlongs. 23-24 furlongs. 25-26 furlongs. 27-28 furlongs. 29-30 furlongs. 31-32 furlongs. 33-34 furlongs. 35-36 furlongs. 37-38 furlongs. 39-40 furlongs. 41-42 furlongs. 43-44 furlongs. 45-46 furlongs. 47-48 furlongs. 49-50 furlongs. 51-52 furlongs. 53-54 furlongs. 55-56 furlongs. 57-58 furlongs. 59-60 furlongs. 61-62 furlongs. 63-64 furlongs. 65-66 furlongs. 67-68 furlongs. 69-70 furlongs. 71-72 furlongs. 73-74 furlongs. 75-76 furlongs. 77-78 furlongs. 79-80 furlongs. 81-82 furlongs. 83-84 furlongs. 85-86 furlongs. 87-88 furlongs. 89-90 furlongs. 91-92 furlongs. 93-94 furlongs. 95-96 furlongs. 97-98 furlongs. 99-100 furlongs. 101-102 furlongs. 103-104 furlongs. 105-106 furlongs. 107-108 furlongs. 109-110 furlongs. 111-112 furlongs. 113-114 furlongs. 115-116 furlongs. 117-118 furlongs. 119-120 furlongs. 121-122 furlongs. 123-124 furlongs. 125-126 furlongs. 127-128 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Football

European Cup: Celtic 1 Croatia Zagreb 0

Outclassed Celtic cling to Jackson lifeline

Patrick Glenn

Celtic's interest in the Champions League remained fairly solid at the end of the first leg of a taxing qualifier thanks to the second-half strike from the substitute Darren Jackson which brought a precious lead.

On another of those stirring European occasions at Celtic Park, the Scottish champions were grateful to be ahead against a Zagreb team of real substance.

Against opponents of notable durability, pace, skill and intelligence, Celtic never had the remotest hope of an easy night. They knew from the earliest moments that the Croatians would be several notches above the standard they are used to in the Premier League.

Huge, expectant crowds like the one which encouraged Celtic in this match invariably lose their voice when it becomes clear, as it did through the first half that the visitors are capable of ceding territory while looking the more dangerous side.

In these circumstances boing becomes a form of respect. The derision directed at Robert Frusticki when he ever took possession was nothing less than a declaration of the Celtic fans' awareness of his gifts and potential menace.

The midfielder's talent was exemplified in the first half when he held the ball just over 30 yards from goal before manoeuvring himself the space from which he forced Jonathan Gould to his left to save a powerful right-foot drive.

The visitors had looked even more likely to score a little earlier when Josko Jadic, a consistent menace, chipped Marko Viduka into position on the right side of the Celtic penalty area. The forward was in ahead of Marc Rieper and the pass had lured Gould from his line, but Viduka pulled his right-foot shot wide of the far post.

Those moments of invention and the pace at which the moves were executed were indicative of the difference between the sides. Although Celtic spent most of the time before the break inside the visitors' half, they never mustered a genuine threat.

Craig Burley, in the opening minutes, sent a low right-foot drive wide of Drazen Ladic's right post and Jackie McNamara had a cross-cum-shot blocked after Regi Bliker's centre had been headed on by Simon Donnelly, but these were not scoring attempts that drew the breath.

Considering what had gone before, Celtic taking the lead seven minutes into the second half was a surprise present for supporters who expected nothing. The advantage could even have been extended during the period of uncertainty in the Zagreb defence which followed Jackson's strike.

The move was started by Bliker, who played the ball through to Henrik Larsson from the left. The Swede's return pass down the inside left channel left Bliker one on one with Ladic. The Dutchman's shot was blocked by Larsson, who had replaced Harald Brattbakk at the start of the second half, drove the ball home from six yards.

His fierce volley was blocked on the line and, from the rebound, Jackson, who had replaced Harald Brattbakk at the start of the second half, drove the ball home from six yards.

A few minutes later Burley caused uncertainty in the visitors' defence by carrying the ball through the middle before releasing it short to Bliker. A huge gap appeared as he moved towards the 18-yard line but he wasted the opportunity by pulling his shot well wide.

Celtic 1-0 (Goal: McNamara, 55th; Rieper, 58th; Donnelly, 60th; Larsson, 62nd; Jackson, 65th; Gould, 68th; Jadic, 70th; Viduka, 72nd; Frusticki, 75th; Bliker, 78th; Larsson, 80th; Jackson, 82nd; Gould, 85th; Jadic, 88th; Viduka, 90th; Frusticki, 92th; Bliker, 95th; Larsson, 98th; Jackson, 100th; Gould, 102th; Jadic, 105th; Viduka, 108th; Frusticki, 110th; Bliker, 112th; Larsson, 115th; Jackson, 118th; Gould, 120th; Jadic, 122th; Viduka, 125th; Frusticki, 128th; Bliker, 130th; Larsson, 132th; Jackson, 135th; Gould, 138th; Jadic, 140th; Viduka, 142th; Frusticki, 145th; Bliker, 148th; Larsson, 150th; Jackson, 152th; Gould, 155th; Jadic, 158th; Viduka, 160th; Frusticki, 162th; Bliker, 165th; Larsson, 168th; Jackson, 170th; Gould, 172th; Jadic, 175th; Viduka, 178th; Frusticki, 180th; Bliker, 182th; Larsson, 185th; Jackson, 188th; Gould, 190th; Jadic, 192th; Viduka, 195th; Frusticki, 198th; Bliker, 200th; Larsson, 202th; Jackson, 205th; Gould, 208th; Jadic, 210th; Viduka, 212th; Frusticki, 215th; Bliker, 218th; Larsson, 220th; Jackson, 222th; Gould, 225th; Jadic, 228th; Viduka, 230th; Frusticki, 232th; Bliker, 235th; Larsson, 238th; Jackson, 240th; Gould, 242th; Jadic, 245th; Viduka, 248th; Frusticki, 250th; Bliker, 252th; Larsson, 255th; Jackson, 258th; Gould, 260th; Jadic, 262th; Viduka, 265th; Frusticki, 268th; Bliker, 270th; Larsson, 272th; Jackson, 275th; Gould, 278th; Jadic, 280th; Viduka, 282th; Frusticki, 285th; Bliker, 288th; Larsson, 290th; Jackson, 292th; Gould, 295th; Jadic, 298th; Viduka, 300th; Frusticki, 302th; Bliker, 305th; Larsson, 308th; Jackson, 310th; Gould, 312th; Jadic, 315th; Viduka, 318th; Frusticki, 320th; Bliker, 322th; Larsson, 325th; Jackson, 328th; Gould, 330th; Jadic, 332th; Viduka, 335th; Frusticki, 338th; Bliker, 340th; Larsson, 342th; Jackson, 345th; Gould, 348th; Jadic, 350th; Viduka, 352th; Frusticki, 355th; Bliker, 358th; Larsson, 360th; Jackson, 362th; Gould, 365th; Jadic, 368th; Viduka, 370th; Frusticki, 372th; Bliker, 375th; Larsson, 378th; Jackson, 380th; Gould, 382th; Jadic, 385th; Viduka, 388th; Frusticki, 390th; Bliker, 392th; Larsson, 395th; Jackson, 398th; Gould, 400th; Jadic, 402th; Viduka, 405th; Frusticki, 408th; Bliker, 410th; Larsson, 412th; Jackson, 415th; Gould, 418th; Jadic, 420th; Viduka, 422th; Frusticki, 425th; Bliker, 428th; Larsson, 430th; Jackson, 432th; Gould, 435th; Jadic, 438th; Viduka, 440th; Frusticki, 442th; Bliker, 445th; Larsson, 448th; Jackson, 450th; Gould, 452th; Jadic, 455th; Viduka, 458th; Frusticki, 460th; Bliker, 462th; Larsson, 465th; Jackson, 468th; Gould, 470th; Jadic, 472th; Viduka, 475th; Frusticki, 478th; Bliker, 480th; Larsson, 482th; Jackson, 485th; Gould, 488th; Jadic, 490th; Viduka, 492th; Frusticki, 495th; Bliker, 498th; Larsson, 500th; Jackson, 502th; Gould, 505th; Jadic, 508th; Viduka, 510th; Frusticki, 512th; Bliker, 515th; Larsson, 518th; Jackson, 520th; Gould, 522th; Jadic, 525th; Viduka, 528th; Frusticki, 530th; Bliker, 532th; Larsson, 535th; Jackson, 538th; Gould, 540th; Jadic, 542th; Viduka, 545th; Frusticki, 548th; Bliker, 550th; Larsson, 552th; Jackson, 555th; Gould, 558th; Jadic, 560th; Viduka, 562th; Frusticki, 565th; Bliker, 568th; Larsson, 570th; Jackson, 572th; Gould, 575th; Jadic, 578th; Viduka, 580th; Frusticki, 582th; Bliker, 585th; Larsson, 588th; Jackson, 590th; Gould, 592th; Jadic, 595th; Viduka, 598th; Frusticki, 600th; Bliker, 602th; Larsson, 605th; Jackson, 608th; Gould, 610th; Jadic, 612th; Viduka, 615th; Frusticki, 618th; Bliker, 620th; Larsson, 622th; Jackson, 625th; Gould, 628th; Jadic, 630th; Viduka, 632th; Frusticki, 635th; Bliker, 638th; Larsson, 640th; Jackson, 642th; Gould, 645th; Jadic, 648th; Viduka, 650th; Frusticki, 652th; Bliker, 655th; Larsson, 658th; Jackson, 660th; Gould, 662th; Jadic, 665th; Viduka, 668th; Frusticki, 670th; Bliker, 672th; Larsson, 675th; Jackson, 678th; Gould, 680th; Jadic, 682th; Viduka, 685th; Frusticki, 688th; Bliker, 690th; Larsson, 692th; Jackson, 695th; Gould, 698th; Jadic, 700th; Viduka, 702th; Frusticki, 705th; Bliker, 708th; Larsson, 710th; Jackson, 712th; Gould, 715th; Jadic, 718th; Viduka, 720th; Frusticki, 722th; Bliker, 725th; Larsson, 728th; Jackson, 730th; Gould, 732th; Jadic, 735th; Viduka, 738th; Frusticki, 740th; Bliker, 742th; Larsson, 745th; Jackson, 748th; Gould, 750th; Jadic, 752th; Viduka, 755th; Frusticki, 758th; Bliker, 760th; Larsson, 762th; Jackson, 765th; Gould, 768th; Jadic, 770th; Viduka, 772th; Frusticki, 775th; Bliker, 778th; Larsson, 780th; Jackson, 782th; Gould, 785th; Jadic, 788th; Viduka, 790th; Frusticki, 792th; Bliker, 795th; Larsson, 798th; Jackson, 800th; Gould, 802th; Jadic, 805th; Viduka, 808th; Frusticki, 810th; Bliker, 812th; Larsson, 815th; Jackson, 818th; Gould, 820th; Jadic, 822th; Viduka, 825th; Frusticki, 828th; Bliker, 830th; Larsson, 832th; Jackson, 835th; Gould, 838th; Jadic, 840th; Viduka, 842th; Frusticki, 845th; Bliker, 848th; Larsson, 850th; Jackson, 852th; Gould, 855th; Jadic, 858th; Viduka, 860th; Frusticki, 862th; Bliker, 865th; Larsson, 868th; Jackson, 870th; Gould, 872th; Jadic, 875th; Viduka, 878th; Frusticki, 880th; Bliker, 882th; Larsson, 885th; Jackson, 888th; Gould, 890th; Jadic, 892th; Viduka, 895th; Frusticki, 898th; Bliker, 900th; Larsson, 902th; Jackson, 905th; Gould, 908th; Jadic, 910th; Viduka, 912th; Frusticki, 915th; Bliker, 918th; Larsson, 920th; Jackson, 922th; Gould, 925th; Jadic, 928th; Viduka, 930th; Frusticki, 932th; Bliker, 935th; Larsson, 938th; Jackson, 940th; Gould, 942th; Jadic, 945th; Viduka, 948th; Frusticki, 950th; Bliker, 952th; Larsson, 955th; Jackson, 958th; Gould, 960th; Jadic, 962th; Viduka, 965th; Frusticki, 968th; Bliker, 970th; Larsson, 972th; Jackson, 975th; Gould, 978th; Jadic, 980th; Viduka, 982th; Frusticki, 985th; Bliker, 988th; Larsson, 990th; Jackson, 992th; Gould, 995th; Jadic, 998th; Viduka, 1000th; Frusticki, 1002th; Bliker, 1005th; Larsson, 1008th; Jackson, 1010th; Gould, 1012th; Jadic, 1015th; Viduka, 1018th; Frusticki, 1020th; Bliker, 1022th; Larsson, 1025th; Jackson, 1028th; Gould, 1030th; Jadic, 1032th; Viduka, 1035th; Frusticki, 1038th; Bliker, 1040th; Larsson, 1042th; Jackson, 1045th; Gould, 1048th; Jadic, 1050th; Viduka, 1052th; Frusticki, 1055th; Bliker, 1058th; Larsson, 1060th; Jackson, 1062th; Gould, 1065th; Jadic, 1068th; Viduka, 1070th; Frusticki, 1072th; Bliker, 1075th; Larsson, 1078th; Jackson, 1080th; Gould, 1082th; Jadic, 1085th; Viduka, 1088th; Frusticki, 1090th; Bliker, 1092th; Larsson, 1095th; Jackson, 1098th; Gould, 1100th; Jadic, 1102th; Viduka, 1105th; Frusticki, 1108th; Bliker, 1110th; Larsson, 1112th; Jackson, 1115th; Gould, 1118th; Jadic, 1120th; Viduka, 1122th; Frusticki, 1125th; Bliker, 1128th; Larsson, 1130th; Jackson, 1132th; Gould, 1135th; Jadic, 1138th; Viduka, 1140th; Frusticki, 1142th; Bliker, 1145th; Larsson, 1148th; Jackson, 1150th; Gould, 1152th; Jadic, 1155th; Viduka, 1158th; Frusticki, 1160th; Bliker, 1162th; Larsson, 1165th; Jackson, 1168th; Gould, 1170th; Jadic, 1172th; Viduka, 1175th; Frusticki, 1178th; Bliker, 1180th; Larsson, 1182th; Jackson, 1185th; Gould, 1188th; Jadic, 1190th; Viduka, 1192th; Frusticki, 1195th; Bliker, 1198th; Larsson, 1200th; Jackson, 1202th; Gould, 1205th; Jadic, 1208th; Viduka, 1210th; Frusticki, 1212th; Bliker, 1215th; Larsson, 1218th; Jackson, 1220th; Gould, 1222th; Jadic, 1225th; Viduka, 1228th; Frusticki, 1230th; Bliker, 1232th; Larsson, 1235th; Jackson, 1238th; Gould, 1240th; Jadic, 1242th; Viduka, 1245th; Frusticki, 1248th; Bliker, 1250th; Larsson, 1252th; Jackson, 1255th; Gould, 1258th; Jadic, 1260th; Viduka, 1262th; Frusticki, 1265th; Bliker, 1268th; Larsson, 1270th; Jackson, 1272th; Gould, 1275th; Jadic, 1278th; Viduka, 1280th; Frusticki, 1282th; Bliker, 1285th; Larsson, 1288th; Jackson, 1290th; Gould, 1292th; Jadic, 1295th; Viduka, 1298th; Frusticki, 1300th; Bliker, 1302th; Larsson, 1305th; Jackson, 1308th; Gould, 1310th; Jadic, 1312th; Viduka, 1315th; Frusticki, 1318th; Bliker, 1320th; Larsson, 1322th; Jackson, 1325th; Gould, 1328th; Jadic, 1330th; Viduka, 1332th; Frusticki, 1335th; Bliker, 1338th; Larsson, 1340th; Jackson, 1342th; Gould, 1345th; Jadic, 1348th; Viduka, 1350th; Frusticki, 1352th; Bliker, 1355th; Larsson, 1358th; Jackson, 1360th; Gould, 1362th; Jadic, 1365th; Viduka, 1368th; Frusticki, 1370th; Bliker, 1372th; Larsson, 1375th; Jackson, 1378th; Gould, 1380th; Jadic, 1382th; Viduka, 1385th; Frusticki, 1388th; Bliker, 1390th; Larsson, 1392th; Jackson, 1395th; Gould, 1398th; Jadic, 1400th; Viduka, 1402th; Frusticki, 1405th; Bliker, 1408th; Larsson, 1410th; Jackson, 1412th; Gould, 1415th; Jadic, 1418th; Viduka, 1420th; Frusticki, 1422th; Bliker, 1425th; Larsson, 1428th; Jackson, 1430th; Gould, 1432th; Jadic, 1435th; Viduka, 1438th; Frusticki, 1440th; Bliker, 1442th; Larsson, 1445th; Jackson, 1448th; Gould, 1450th; Jadic, 1452th; Viduka, 1455th; Frusticki, 1458th; Bliker, 1460th; Larsson, 1462th; Jackson, 1465th; Gould, 1468th; Jadic, 1470th; Viduka, 1472th; Frusticki, 1475th; Bliker, 1478th; Larsson, 1480th; Jackson, 1482th; Gould, 1485th; Jadic, 1488th; Viduka, 1490th; Frusticki, 1492th; Bliker, 1495th; Larsson, 1498th; Jackson, 1500th; Gould, 1502th; Jadic, 1505th; Viduka, 1508th; Frusticki, 1510th; Bliker, 1512th; Larsson, 1515th; Jackson, 1518th; Gould, 1520th; Jadic, 1522th; Viduka, 1525th; Frusticki, 1528th; Bliker, 1530th; Larsson, 1532th; Jackson, 1535th; Gould, 1538th; Jadic, 1540th; Viduka, 1542th; Frusticki, 1545th; Bliker, 1548th; Larsson, 1550th; Jackson, 1552th; Gould, 1555th; Jadic, 1558th; Viduka, 1560th; Frusticki, 1562th; Bliker, 1565th; Larsson, 1568th; Jackson, 1570th; Gould, 1572th; Jadic, 1575th; Viduka, 1578th; Frusticki, 1580th; Bliker, 1582th; Larsson, 1585th; Jackson, 1588th; Gould, 1590th; Jadic, 1592th; Viduka, 1595th; Frusticki, 1598th; Bliker, 1600th; Larsson, 1602th; Jackson, 1605th; Gould, 1608th; Jadic, 1610th; Viduka, 1612th; Frusticki, 1615th; Bliker, 1618th; Larsson, 1620th; Jackson, 1622th; Gould, 1625th; Jadic, 1628th; Viduka, 1630th; Frusticki, 1632th; Bliker, 1635th; Larsson, 1638th; Jackson, 1640th; Gould, 1642th; Jadic, 1645th; Viduka, 1648th; Frusticki, 1650th; Bliker, 1652th; Larsson, 1655th; Jackson, 1658th; Gould, 1660th; Jadic, 1662th; Viduka, 1665th; Frusticki, 1668th; Bliker, 1670th; Larsson, 1672th; Jackson, 1675th; Gould, 1678th; Jadic, 1680th; Viduka, 1682th; Frusticki, 1685th; Bliker, 1688th; Larsson, 1690th; Jackson, 1692th; Gould, 1695th; Jadic, 1698th; Viduka, 1700th; Frusticki, 1702th; Bliker, 1705th; Larsson, 1708th; Jackson, 1710th; Gould, 1712th; Jadic, 1715th; Viduka, 1718th; Frusticki, 1720th; Bliker, 1722th; Larsson, 1725th; Jackson, 1728th; Gould, 1730th; Jadic, 1732th; Viduka, 1735th; Frusticki, 1738th; Bliker, 1740th; Larsson, 1742th; Jackson, 1745th; Gould, 1748th; Jadic, 1750th; Viduka, 1752th; Frusticki, 1755th; Bliker, 1758th; Larsson, 1760th; Jackson, 1762th; Gould, 1765th; Jadic, 1768th; Viduka, 1770th; Frusticki, 1772th; Bliker, 1775th; Larsson, 1778th; Jackson, 1780th; Gould, 1782th; Jadic, 1785th; Viduka, 1788th; Frusticki, 1790th; Bliker, 1792th; Larsson, 1795th; Jackson, 1798th; Gould, 1800th; Jadic, 1802th; Viduka, 1805th; Frusticki, 1808th; Bliker, 1810th; Larsson, 1812th; Jackson, 1815th; Gould, 1818th; Jadic, 1820th; Viduka, 1822th; Frusticki, 1825th; Bliker, 1828th; Larsson, 1830th; Jackson, 1832th; Gould, 1835th; Jadic, 1838th; Viduka, 1840th; Frusticki, 1842th; Bliker, 1845th; Larsson, 1848th; Jackson, 1850th; Gould, 1852th; Jadic, 1855th; Viduka, 1858th; Frusticki, 1860th; Bliker, 1862th; Larsson, 1865th; Jackson, 1868th; Gould, 1870th; Jadic, 1872th; Viduka, 1875th; Frusticki, 1878th; Bliker, 1880th; Larsson, 1882th; Jackson, 1885th; Gould, 1888th; Jadic, 1890th; Viduka, 1892th; Frusticki, 1895th; Bliker, 1898th; Larsson, 1900th; Jackson, 1902th; Gould, 1905th; Jadic, 1908th; Viduka, 1910th; Frusticki, 1912th; Bliker, 1915th; Larsson, 1918th; Jackson, 1920th; Gould, 1922th; Jadic, 1925th; Viduka, 1928th; Frusticki, 1930th; Bliker, 1932th; Larsson, 1935th; Jackson, 1938th; Gould, 1940th; Jadic, 1942th; Viduka, 1945th; Frusticki, 1948th; Bliker, 1950th; Larsson, 1952th; Jackson, 1955th; Gould, 1958th; Jadic, 1960th; Viduka, 1962th; Frusticki, 1965th; Bliker, 1968th; Larsson, 1970th; Jackson, 1972th; Gould, 1975th; Jadic, 1978th; Viduka, 1980th; Frusticki, 1982th; Bliker, 1985th; Larsson, 1988th; Jackson, 1990th; Gould, 1992th; Jadic, 1995th; Viduka, 1998th; Frusticki, 2000th; Bliker, 2002th; Larsson, 2005th; Jackson, 2008th; Gould, 2010th; Jadic, 2012th; Viduka, 2015th; Frusticki, 2018th; Bliker, 2020th; Larsson, 2022th; Jackson, 2025th; Gould, 2028th; Jadic, 2030th; Viduka, 2032th; Frusticki, 2035th; Bliker, 2038th; Larsson, 2040th; Jackson, 2042th; Gould, 2045th; Jadic, 2048th; Viduka, 2050th; Frusticki, 2052th; Bliker, 2055th; Larsson, 2058th; Jackson, 2060th; Gould, 2062th; Jadic, 2065th; Viduka, 2068th; Frusticki, 2070th; Bliker, 2072th; Larsson, 2075th; Jackson, 2078th; Gould, 2080th; Jadic, 2082th; Viduka, 2085th; Frusticki, 2088th; Bliker, 2090th; Larsson, 2092th; Jackson, 2095th; Gould, 2098th; Jadic, 2100th; Viduka, 2102th; Frusticki, 2105th; Bliker, 2108th; Larsson, 2110th; Jackson, 2112th; Gould, 2115th; Jadic, 2118th; Viduka, 2120th; Frusticki, 2122th; Bliker, 2125th; Larsson, 2128th; Jackson, 2130th; Gould, 2132th; Jadic, 2135th; Viduka, 2138th; Frusticki, 2140th; Bliker, 2142th; Larsson, 2145th; Jackson, 2148th; Gould, 2150th; Jadic, 2152th; Viduka, 2155th; Frusticki, 2158th; Bliker, 2160th; Larsson, 2162th; Jackson, 2165th; Gould, 2168th; Jadic, 2170th; Viduka, 2172th; Frusticki, 2175th; Bliker, 2178th; Larsson, 2180th; Jackson, 2182th; Gould, 2185th; Jadic, 2188th; Viduka, 2190th; Frusticki, 2192th; Bliker, 2195th; Larsson, 2198th; Jackson, 2200th; Gould, 2202th; Jadic, 2205th; Viduka, 2208th; Frusticki, 2210th; Bliker, 2212th; Larsson, 2215th; Jackson, 2218th; Gould, 2220th; Jadic, 2222th; Viduka, 2225th; Frusticki, 2228th; Bliker, 2230th; Larsson, 2232th; Jackson, 2235th; Gould, 2238th; Jadic, 2240th; Viduka, 2242th; Frusticki, 2245th; Bliker, 2248th; Larsson, 2250th; Jackson, 2252th; Gould, 2255th; Jadic, 2258th; Viduka, 2260th; Frusticki, 2262th; Bliker, 2265th; Larsson, 2268th; Jackson, 2270th; Gould, 2272th; Jadic, 2275th; Viduka, 2278th; Frusticki, 2280th; Bliker, 2282th; Larsson, 2285th; Jackson, 2288th; Gould, 2290th; Jadic, 2292th; Viduka, 2295th; Frusticki, 2298th; Bliker, 2300th; Larsson, 2302th; Jackson, 2305th; Gould, 2308th; Jadic, 2310th; Viduka, 2312th; Frusticki, 2315th; Bliker, 2318th; Larsson, 2320th; Jackson, 2322th; Gould, 2325th; Jadic, 2328th; Viduka, 2330th; Frusticki, 2332th; Bliker, 2335th; Larsson, 2338th; Jackson, 2340th; Gould, 2342th; Jadic, 2345th; Viduka, 2348th; Frusticki, 2350th; Bliker, 2352th; Larsson, 2355th; Jackson, 2358th; Gould, 2360th; Jadic, 2362th; Viduka, 2365th; Frusticki, 2368th; Bliker, 2370th; Larsson, 2372th; Jackson, 2375th; Gould, 2378th; Jadic, 2380th; Viduka, 2382th; Frusticki, 2385th; Bliker, 2388th; Larsson, 2390th; Jackson, 2392th; Gould, 2395th; Jadic, 2398th; Viduka, 2400th; Frusticki, 2402th; Bliker, 2405th; Larsson, 2408th; Jackson, 2410th; Gould, 2412th; Jadic, 2415th; Viduka, 2418th; Frusticki, 2420th; Bliker, 2422th; Larsson, 2425th; Jackson, 2428th; Gould, 2430th; Jadic, 2432th; Viduka, 2435th; Frusticki, 2438th; Bliker, 2440th; Larsson, 2442th; Jackson, 2445th; Gould, 2448th; Jadic, 2450th; Viduka, 2452th; Frusticki, 2455th; Bliker, 2458th; Larsson, 2460th; Jackson, 2462th; Gould, 2465th; Jadic, 2468th; Viduka, 2470th; Frusticki, 2472th; Bliker, 2475th; Larsson, 2478th; Jackson, 2480th; Gould, 2482th; Jadic, 2485th; Viduka, 2488th; Frusticki, 2490th; Bliker, 2492th; Larsson, 2495th; Jackson, 2498th; Gould, 2500th; Jadic, 2502th; Viduka, 2505th; Frusticki, 2508th; Bliker, 2510th; Larsson, 2512th; Jackson, 2515th; Gould, 2518th; Jadic, 2520th; Viduka, 2522th; Frusticki, 2525th; Bliker, 2528th; Larsson, 2530th; Jackson, 2532th; Gould, 2535th; Jadic, 2538th; Viduka, 2540th; Frusticki, 2542th; Bliker, 2545th; Larsson, 2548th; Jackson, 2550th; Gould, 2552th; Jadic, 2555th; Viduka, 2558th; Frusticki, 2560th; Bliker, 2562th; Larsson, 2565th; Jackson, 2568th; Gould, 2570th; Jadic, 2572th; Viduka, 2575th; Frusticki, 2578th; Bliker, 2580th; Larsson, 2582th; Jackson, 2585th; Gould, 2588th; Jadic, 2590th; Viduka, 2592th; Frusticki, 2595th; Bliker, 2598th; Larsson, 2600th; Jackson, 2602th; Gould, 2605th; Jadic, 2608th; Viduka, 2610th; Frusticki, 2612th; Bliker, 2615th; Larsson, 2618th; Jackson, 2620th; Gould, 2622th; Jadic, 2625th; Viduka, 2628th; Frusticki, 2630th; Bliker, 2632th; Larsson, 2635th; Jackson, 2638th; Gould, 2640th; Jadic, 2642th; Viduka, 2645th; Frusticki, 2648th; Bliker, 2650th; Larsson, 2652th; Jackson, 2655th; Gould, 2658th; Jadic, 2660th; Viduka, 2662th; Frusticki, 2665th; Bliker, 2668th; Larsson, 2670th; Jackson, 2672th; Gould, 2675th; Jadic, 2678th; Viduka, 2680th; Frusticki, 2682th; Bliker, 2685th; Larsson, 2688th; Jackson, 2690th; Gould, 2692th; Jadic, 2695th; Viduka, 2698th; Frusticki, 2700th; Bliker, 2702th; Larsson, 2705th; Jackson, 2708th; Gould, 2710th; Jadic, 2712th; Viduka, 2715th; Frusticki, 2718th; Bliker, 2720th; Larsson, 2722th; Jackson, 2725th; Gould, 2728th; Jadic, 2730th; Viduka, 2732th; Frusticki, 2735th; Bliker, 2738th; Larsson, 2740th; Jackson, 2742th; Gould, 2745th; Jadic, 2748th; Viduka, 2750th; Frusticki, 2752th; Bliker, 2755th; Larsson, 2758th; Jackson, 2760th; Gould, 2762th; Jadic, 2765th; Viduka, 2768th; Frusticki, 2770th; Bliker, 2772th; Larsson, 2775th; Jackson, 2778th; Gould, 2780th; Jadic, 2782th; Viduka, 2785th; Frusticki, 2788th; Bliker, 2790th; Larsson, 2792th; Jackson, 2795th; Gould, 2798th; Jadic, 2800th; Viduka, 2802th; Frusticki, 2805th; Bliker, 2808th; Larsson, 2810th; Jackson, 2812th; Gould, 2815th; Jadic, 2818th; Viduka, 2820th; Frusticki, 2822th; Bliker, 2825th; Larsson, 2828th; Jackson, 2830th; Gould, 2832th; Jadic, 2835th; Viduka, 2838th; Frusticki, 2840th; Bliker, 2842th; Larsson, 2845th; Jackson, 2848th; Gould, 2850th; Jadic, 2852th; Viduka, 2855th; Frusticki, 2858th; Bliker, 2860th;

SportsGuardian

European Cup



Beck and call... Manchester United's Beckham is thwarted by Zuberek during last night's nervous qualifying win against LKS Lodz at Old Trafford

PHOTOGRAPH BY IAN HODGSON

Second qualifying round, first leg: Manchester United 2 LKS Lodz 0

Giggs is the driving force

David Lacey at Old Trafford sees a Cole goal provide insurance for the trip to Poland

MANCHESTER United's lack of a reliable finisher spared the dogged defenders of LKS Lodz a more harrowing experience at Old Trafford last night after Ryan Giggs had given United an early lead in their Champions League qualifier.

Although Alex Ferguson's team controlled large parts of the match they were unable to find the quality where it mattered most, namely in front of the LKS goal, until nine minutes from the end when Andy Cole headed in at the far post from Denis Irwin's centre.

Lodz marked tightly, with a sweeper Witold Bendkowski, were quick to intercept final

passes, and dealt competently with some early crosses.

The feeling, however, soon passed. After seven minutes only alert covering by Rafal Pawlak denied Paul Scholes a chance to exploit the rebound after Nicky Butt and Cole had combined to send in Ryan Giggs for a shot parried by Boguslaw Wyparło in the LKS goal. After 15 United were ahead, though.

The goal was simple, quick and clearly executed. Gary Neville's long ball was headed on by Scholes and Giggs did the rest, outwitting Bendkowski before driving a firm shot low past Wyparło.

Five minutes later Cole successfully took on Tomasz Kos on the right before seeing his cross-shot valiantly pushed

away by the busy Lodz goalkeeper.

While aware of the danger of conceding a goal at home, United found little in the LKS attack to cause them immediate concern. The Poles put their faith in counter-attacking from entrenched positions but took a while to produce anything more threatening

ed's domination of the game. Yet they needed to reflect their superiority with more goals. Another nearly arrived in the 34th minute when a corner from David Beckham was half-cleared to Jasp Stam whose neat chip beat Wyparło but was headed out by Grzegorz Krysiak.

Later one of Beckham's swinging free-kicks sailed close to the right-hand post and as the first half ended Scholes volleyed just wide from Roy Keane's centre. Lodz came in grateful to be only one down.

A Polish goal was highly unlikely but not impossible and a 1-0 lead is a 1-0 lead, no

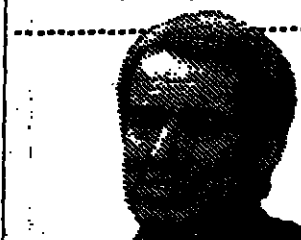
matter how much territorial advantage might accompany it. A dash down the right by Beckham at the start of the second half assured Old Trafford of United's renewed determination to score again but a poor centre renewed doubts about their ability to finish what they had begun.

Within minutes, moreover, Dridoslav Zuberek had outpaced United on the left before driving a rising shot into Schmeichel's large hands.

If nothing else this was a warning to Ferguson's team about the possible perils of taking a slender lead to the middle of Poland in a fortnight's time.

Two chances fell Cole's way early in the second half but he was unable to exploit either of them. The United striker turned quickly on a ball from Irwin but was then blocked by Bendkowski, and when he used his pace to reach Giggs's

The bonus and a bluff well called



Paul Weaver

THE days when a footballer would blow his win bonus on a pint of bitter and a packet of fags have receded into the sepia tones of history, along with cars with running boards and undisputed blow decisions. Today that little bit extra can represent a lifestyle makeover.

The French players each won £250,000 for beating Brazil in the World Cup final. Arsenal will pick up £400,000 a man this season if they manage to pull off the treble of the European Cup (£250,000), the Premiership (£100,000) and the FA Cup (£50,000).

The best win bonus yet paid in this embryonic football season, however, has gone to The Schiehallion Unit for sick children in Glasgow's Yorkhill Hospital. It has been paid by the Celtic chairman Fergus McCann, who made his considerable fortune in the super-market business in Canada and who is a man not necessarily famous for his philanthropy.

According to McCann, the Celtic players were offered £20,000 each to reach the Champions League by beating Croatia Zagreb in their qualifying tie, the first leg of which was played at Celtic Park last night.

The very notion of Scottish footballers, who are more European than William Ewart, being offered such bonuses may strike some as rather amusing. Bonus payments for Scottish footballers playing in European competition is normally a purely academic matter. McCann's money appeared safe in his pocket.

Scottish football, like some wine and the humour of Rolf Harris, does not travel well. For the Scottish champions, however, some of whom earn more than £10,000 a week, a mere £20,000 was not enough.

Three of them, Marc Rieper, Regi Rinkler and Jackie McNamara, registered their displeasure by boycotting a photocall to launch the club's away kit on Monday.

A furious McCann responded by paying £50,000 of the bonus pool to the unit for sick children. He described his players as "outrageous" and added: "They

should get a reality check. There are some people struggling with a salary, some don't have a salary at all and some don't even have a life to look forward to."

On Tuesday the Celtic players held a meeting which ended with Tommy Boyd, the club captain, issuing a challenge to McCann to offer the remaining £230,000 in the bonus fund to charity.

McCann obliged.

"I am very pleased with the players' gesture and the club is delighted to pay the remaining pool money to the Schiehallion Unit for terminally ill children," he said. "I am delighted that such a worthy cause has benefited. The happiness this money can bring to some very special children is the ideal outcome."

It is certainly a pleasing outcome, even though it does prompt a vision of mischievous chairman indulging in a little moral blackmail, threatening to give greedy players' money away. Charities based in London, Manchester and Liverpool could be in for a windfall. It could be a tricky one for the Professional Footballers Association.

THE question of bonuses and incentives can be a difficult one. In Germany a few years ago the manager of a local football club banned his players, and himself, from having sex with their spouses until they ended their long, losing run. The sequence of defeats did not end and it was not until the end of the season that the disgruntled manager discovered that his wife had been having an affair with every member of the side.

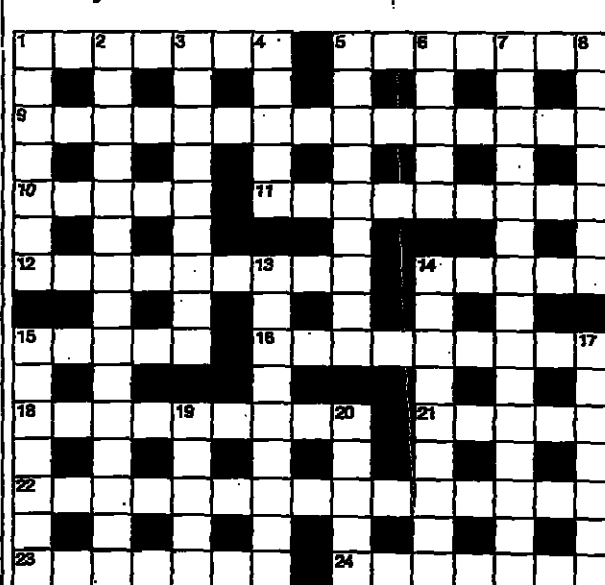
Some bonuses are hardly worth the bother. Ten years ago the Vauxhall Conference side Yeovil were offered 100 free range eggs by a local farmer for an away win. They immediately went to Stafford and won 6-2, but were then warned off the eggs because of a salmonella scare.

At Celtic Park, meanwhile, these are interesting times. Last season Celtic stopped Rangers from achieving a record 10th consecutive league title and did so with fewer points than they had achieved in the previous two seasons under Tommy Burns.

The ground has been redeveloped, there are 60,000 seats and 50,000 season ticket holders. There is also a new manager at the helm in the 63-year-old Dr Jozef Venglos. The controversial McCann has said he will leave next summer, which might be good news for the players but not necessarily for the children of the Schiehallion Unit in Yorkhill Hospital.

Guardian Crossword No 21,352

Set by Gordius



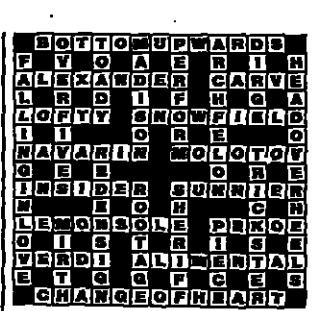
Across

- Grave comment on English mine mishap (7)
- Bill taken as being on the firm what a sequel (7)
- The very thing (6,7)
- Artist met with an interruption (5)
- For a late Turner as of a Cretan maze (8)
- Access to upper deck in Strathclyde (8)
- Mate or companion in a Cockney manner of speaking (5)
- A physician to the Queen advises caution (5)
- Recent fashion for the navy is to get into networking equipment (8)
- Stem warning (4,5)
- Rejected opera if not drunk (5)

- One set of figures accountant has in daily use for philanthropy (10,5)
- The high point is to put one's feet up at the end of the day (7)
- Sewing equipment is almost unnecessary (7)

Down

- Medicine dispensed but for one kind of disease (7)
- Group of soldiers make friend a bit angry (8,7)
- Arm Murphy loses head over Roger, whose contribution is marginal (8)
- Death can be unpopular (5)
- Endless business about lines getting crossed (8)
- Subsistence money for volunteers on the club (5)
- Beef for cull—or the nonsense surrounding it (11,4)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 21,351

- One with a canoe capsize in Pacific (7)
- Possible asylum seeker getting concession by January 2007 (9)
- Caution needed about contract—contents might go off (8)
- Case of act with haste, heartlessly perhaps... (7)
- ...and end up in widespread rage (7)
- Spanish river turned up in 8 in France (5)
- Finger that can hold a pound in weight (5)

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Tour match: Counties XI v S Africans

South Africans dazzled by the multi-coloured swap shop

WHOO says there is no colour in county cricket? Yesterday at Headingley the First Class Counties XI played in green, white, red, yellow and various shades of blue, while the South Africans did their bit by wearing shell-suit bottoms and green and gold shirts.

If that lot takes some explaining, try working out how South Africa lost by five runs after exactly matching the Counties' total of 279 in 43 overs. That was down to the dreaded Duckworth-Lewis method. The fashion show was caused by a good old-fashioned cock-up.

First, the green trousers they had been sent were too small, so they agreed to play in the track-suit pants. Second, no one thought to sort out a kit for the Counties XI, so the players were asked to bring their own AKA League shirts.

Ally Brown and Nick Knight prospered yesterday, putting on 139 inside 23 overs before Knight was caught and bowled. Brown went on to 79 from 74 balls with 10 fours and three sixes, one of them off Pat Symcox into the second tier of the Old Pavilion, to pick up £1,000 as Man of the Match.

England's total of 279 for three, which featured an unbeaten 70 from 61 balls



Winning ensemble... the victorious First Class Counties XI PHOTOGRAPH BY LAURENCE GRIFFITHS

from Ben Hollis, who converted to a target of 224 because their innings had been reduced from 47 overs to 43 during a lunch-time shower. This did not seem relevant when Martin Bicknell claimed three early wickets to reduce the

tourists to 55 for four. But Jonty Rhodes, with 90 from 54 balls, and Shaun Pollock (58 from 54) put on 127 for the sixth wicket. Then Symcox, wearing Paul Adam's No. 23 jumper over his own shirt, heaved a quick 17,

but cleaved angrily with Hollis after he had bowled a bouncer. But in the end the South Africans succumbed to the strength of English county cricket. Or something like that.

Scoreboard, page 15

"No self-respecting pro can condone the actions of this member of our foreign brethren. To come to Britain and treat famous institutions such as Forest and Celtic like that is a nonsense."

Niall Quinn's new weekly column in tomorrow's Guardian

